

Imported cars take record 46% of British market

Imported cars took a record 46 per cent of the British market last month. During the first 11 months of 1976 car imports totalled £802m, but despite this the British motor industry achieved a balance of payments surplus of £1,476m.

Motor exports give payments surplus

The group's ability to meet demand. Ford sales during the month were also depressed as a result of the introduction of its new Cortina range. Ford, Vauxhall and Chrysler UK together imported nearly 7,000 cars in December from European assembly plants, accounting for 11.4 per cent of the total market.

Govan vote should end demarcation strikes

Mr Ronald Faux, Glasgow, said that the Clyde shipbuilders' yard on the Clyde yesterday decided by a big majority to relax working practices at the yard, which should eliminate demarcation strikes.

Minimum lending rate cut to 14pc

The Bank of England yesterday reduced the minimum lending rate by a quarter percentage point to 14 per cent. The fall is generally seen as the latest in a series of downward steps that will continue for some time.

University 'spies'

Scores of foreign students are under surveillance from their countries' spy networks in British universities, the National Union of Students said. At a conference in York the union called for a detailed report on the operations of agencies in universities, said to include the KGB, CIA, SAVAK (Iran) and BOSS (South Africa).

Gas explosion in hospital oven

A man was injured and 12 patients were evacuated after a gas explosion in an oven at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital in Newark, Nottinghamshire, after a fire official disputed the cause.

Meriden talks

Harold Lever is to discuss the Government's refusal of a further £1m support for the Meriden motor cycle operative with Mr Jack Jones and Geoffrey Robinson, MP, on Monday.

83-day trial ends

A property dealer who tried to defraud insurance companies of more than £300,000 by bogus fire insurance claims was jailed for seven years at the end of an 83-day trial estimated to have cost £750,000.

Parents allowing too much television, Mrs Williams says

By Tim Devlin
Education Correspondent

Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said yesterday that some parents were allowing their young children to watch too much television.

Ministers to discuss pit peace terms

By Paul Roudledge
Labour Editor

Senior Cabinet ministers are to meet leaders of the National Union of Mineworkers on Monday to discuss terms for settling the coal industry's retirement dispute.

Arrests follow publication of Czech dissidents' manifesto

From Dan van der Vat
Brno, Jan 7

The Czechoslovak authorities reacted swiftly but predictably today, with arrests and a broadside in the Communist Party press, to the publication in the West of a protest manifesto signed by 240 dissident intellectuals.

British Airways flights cut by loaders' strike

British Airways lost an estimated £1,700,000 yesterday because of a strike by 600 loaders at Heathrow Airport, London. The airline said 23 overseas division flights had been cancelled, affecting about 5,000 passengers.

Peers criticize EEC directive

The House of Lords Select Committee on the European Communities criticized changes in the labelling, presentation and handling of foodstuffs proposed in an EEC draft directive. It has also endorsed complaints about the unsatisfactory nature of the EEC Commission's procedures for consultation.

Carrillo war record

The democratic hero Señor Carrillo, the communist leader, is now wearing a tarnished by his role in the Spanish civil war and his responsibility for mass executions, which earned him the nickname of the "Assassin of Paracuellos".

Invalid care ruling

A national insurance commissioner has upheld the Government's argument that regulations on invalid care allowance exclude married women caring for their husbands, on the assumption that a married woman would not usually work and therefore would not lose wages or rights to national insurance benefit.

Strike continues

More than 70 Northamptonshire journalists voted by a five-to-one majority at a mass meeting yesterday to continue their five-week-old strike over a claim for better fringe benefits.

Mars signal confirms Einstein's theory

From John Noble Wilford
New York, Jan 7

The most accurate long-distance measurements ever made by means of radio signals between the Viking spacecraft on Mars and antennas on earth, have produced new confirmation of Einstein's theory of relativity, a Viking project scientist reported yesterday.

The measurement was so precise, according to Dr Irwin Shapiro, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, that the uncertainty over a span of 200 million miles was less than 5ft—that is, an accuracy of five parts in 10 million millions.

Dr Shapiro believes that after further analysis, the Viking experiment will show that the delay in the travel time of the radio waves caused by the Sun's gravity was close to calculations (a delay of 200 millionths of a second) based on Einstein's theory.

Kurd rebels kidnap five Poles

By Edward Mortimer

Five Polish engineers and surveyors are being held hostage by Kurdish guerrillas in north-east Iraq, according to Kurdish sources in London.

Takeover dispute settled, says Mr Murdoch

From Our Own Correspondent
New York, Jan 7

A settlement was reached today in the disputed takeover by Mr Rupert Murdoch, the Australian newspaper owner, of the New York Magazine Company, according to members of Mr Murdoch's staff.

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HOME NEWS

Foreign spies 'keeping watch on students at British universities'

From Our Correspondent

The National Union of Students is to investigate the activities of intelligence agents said to be operating in British universities. The union believes that scores of foreign students are under surveillance from their countries' spy networks. Among the agencies accused of infiltrating universities are the KGB, CIA, SAVAK (the Iranian security organisation), and South Africa's Bureau of State Security (BOSS).

The allegations were made yesterday at a union conference at York University, at which delegates called for a detailed report on the agencies' university operations.

Mr Stephen Pearson, president of the students' union at Bradford, said that two students there had been exposed as SAVAK agents instructed to watch some of their 43 Iranian colleagues at the university.

"One agent we exposed was using the photographic society's equipment to take pictures of Iranian students involved in anti-Shah activities," he said. "We discovered that there is no doubt that some Iranian students who are involved in political activity in this country are afraid of reprisals when they return home."

Mr Pearson also referred to a party of 20 Russian students on a short-term exchange course at Bradford. He said they were constantly chaperoned by a "counter" and were subjected to restrictions on what literature they could read. They were watched closely outside

the university and in their contacts with people.

Mr Charles Clarke, the president of the union, said: "The investigation is aimed at rooting out the intelligence agents who have infiltrated campuses. We are not prepared to tolerate these activities."

"We believe many English universities have agents from various organisations operating within them. Files we have built up on various students substantiate this."

CIA accused: Allegations of large-scale subversion by the CIA and other intelligence agencies in student organisations are contained in an article to be published by the National Union of Students next month (Frances Gibb writes). The article, commissioned by the union for its newspaper, *National Student*, was written by Mr Philip Kelly, a journalist at *Interpress*, a news agency.

Mr Francis Beckett, editor of *National Student*, said that intelligence agencies, and in particular the CIA, had taken a close interest in student organisations over a long period. Much of the evidence contained in the article came from the union's files.

Mr David Aaronovich, the union's vice-president in charge of services, said it was believed that former members of the union and others holding senior posts in the student movement had been recruited by the CIA unwittingly, with British security agents.

Iranian students at Leeds University had not registered an Iranian students' society in their own name through fear of reprisals from Iranian agents, he said.

Assault on pay disparities in engineering industry

By Christopher Thomas

An assault on pay disparities in the engineering industry is planned by the white-collar Technical, Administrative and Supervisory Section (Tass) of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers under the controversial schedule 11 of the Employment Protection Act.

It will be the first important test of the schedule as a means of getting wages rises above the maximum allowed under the pay policy. The Confederation of British Industry has said the schedule is irresponsible and carries serious inflationary implications.

Tass is today distributing 200 forms as part of its annual census. The replies are expected to reveal widespread inequalities in the pay of people doing similar jobs.

Schedule 11, designed to end pockets of low pay, allows unions to claim pay rises to end differences between comparable workers in similar industries in the same district. It is not clear how claims will be handled by the Central Arbitration Committee, and several

other unions are considering claims to test the measure.

Tass expects 100,000 replies to its salary census, to be analysed by computer, giving details on wages, holidays and pension. Other employment conditions in engineering and related industries. The first results are expected next month.

The engineering industry, which has no nationally agreed minimum wage rates, is seen by the unions as offering an opportunity to get pay rises above the limit for large numbers of members. Tass said yesterday: "We have made clear that we want increases over the wage restraint limit."

Mr Kenneth Gill, general secretary, said: "We look forward to getting the results of this unique trade union service [the Tass census] to assist all our members freely to negotiate wages and conditions which will adequately protect them against the ravages of inflation and restore living standards."

The union says it has evidence of people doing almost identical jobs in companies only a few miles apart and receiving wages varying by up to £10 a week.

Mrs Hart among witnesses for deportation plea

By Stewart Tandler

Home Affairs Minister Mr. Judith Hart, MP, a member of the Labour Party national executive and a former Minister for Overseas Development, will be among witnesses giving evidence in defence of Mr. Philip Agee, the former CIA agent, when he appears before the Home Office committee next week to appeal against a decision to deport him.

Mr. Stanley Newens, Labour MP for Barking, has also agreed to appear. When the hearing begins on Tuesday, Mr. Agee hopes to have at least 20 witnesses ready.

Mr. Agee and Mr. Mark Rosenblatt, who works for the London Evening Standard, and deportation for security reasons, but details of the allegations against them have not been given. Mr. Rosenblatt's hearing starts on January 19.

Mr. Agee, a 45-year-old CIA officer, has denied that the CIA has had anything to do with the deportation decision, but this week *The Leveller*, a left-wing magazine, has on its front cover the name, private address and telephone number of a political ally at the United States embassy who, it alleges, is involved in the case.

Tomorrow afternoon the Agee-Rosenblatt Defence Committee is holding a protest march and rally at Speakers' Corner, Hyde Park.

£80,000 bill for vandalism at Mersey docks

From Our Correspondent

Vandalism on the Mersey docks cost at least £80,000 last year and is expected to rise if port workers, according to figures disclosed by the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company yesterday. The company was criticised recently for restricting the issue of fishing permits to tighten security.

During the year included the disappearance of 66 lifebelts from quaysides in five months. In one weekend 27 were lost. Safety ropes were slashed or stolen and manhole covers were removed for their scrap value. Large quantities of scrap metal were stolen from warehouse roofs and fires were started in or near dock sheds.

The Chief Constable of the port police, Mr. Edward Post, said it was difficult to know whether a greater proportion of the damage was due to sheer vandalism or to theft.

Worker directors

The Bullock Report on Industrial Democracy is published today in *The Times* on Monday. Peter Heennessy and staff correspondents abroad will report on the issues that confront trade unions and Britain's 600 leading companies in introducing working directors.

Laughter in court over incompetent drug smugglers

By Clive Borrell

Two men who persuaded their friends to help in an attempt to break into the international drug-smuggling racket were sent to prison yesterday. Judge Alexander Carmichael, QC, at the Central Criminal Court, described them as "hopeless incompetents".

"Everything you did from start to finish went wrong. You did not know how to organize things," he told the two ring-leaders, Charles Sharp, aged 35, unemployed, of Clapham, London, and Ronald Kelly, aged 45, a driver of Danvers Avenue, Putney. Both were sentenced to three years.

Michael O'Brien, aged 23, unemployed, of Heyford Road, Hitchen, London, was given a two-year sentence. Mrs Ruby

Harman, aged 45, mother of five, of Onslow Road, West Croydon, was given a 12-month suspended sentence; Leonard Poole, aged 27, a company director, of Corrance Road, Brixton, was given a two-year suspended sentence and fined £1,500; Alan Edwards, aged 33, a welder, of Hazel Avenue, Belfield, Guildford, Surrey, was sent to prison for two years; Robert Clarke, aged 31, a window-cleaner, of Grantham Road, Stockwell, was given a 12-month suspended sentence; and Raymond Lerner, aged 29, a food-carrier, of Harling Court, Battersea, was sent to prison for two years.

All pleaded guilty to inducing or assisting in Britain in the illegal importation of cannabis resin into Spain contrary to the Misuse of Drugs Act, 1971.

Mr Lerner was also sentenced to 12 months, to run concurrently, after pleading guilty to a theft charge.

The three-day hearing was often halted by laughter, not only from the public gallery, but also from the judge, counsel and the defendants, as the activities of the group were described for the prosecution.

On the first of several abortive attempts to smuggle cannabis into Spain from Morocco, one member of the group lost his nerve and sabotaged the venture by pouring sugar into the petrol tank of their van. The vehicle had to be abandoned.

During another attempt a cache of 60lbs of cannabis was discovered by the police; one of the group is serving a 12-year sentence in a Spanish prison for his part in the escape.

On one occasion the group



Mr David Markham, the actor, and his family, with another Russian refugee (right), welcoming Mr Vladimir Bukovsky, who recently left Russia, to their Sussex home yesterday.

Government wins 'test case' over wife's invalid care allowance

By Craig Seton

The Government has won its appeal against a national insurance tribunal decision to award a Glasgow housewife a benefit officially not available to married women.

If the Government's challenge had failed, an estimated 100,000 to 150,000 married women might have qualified for an allowance of £9.50 a week for caring for their disabled husbands.

Mrs Heather McMahon, aged 27, was said to be the only housewife in Britain to have been awarded the invalid care allowance, paid to people who give up work to care for relatives receiving attendance allowances, until the Government's challenge. The appeal then went before a national insurance commissioner.

The commissioner has upheld the Government's argument that the regulations on invalid care allowance specifically exclude married women caring for their husbands. That is on the assumption that a married woman would not usually work and therefore would not lose wages or rights to national insurance benefit.

Mrs McMahon's husband, Drew, aged 27, became ill two years ago and after a brain tumour he became paralysed down one side. He has a mental age of four. Before his illness he was a journalist and his wife was a telephonist.

They have a bungalow in Shetland, but because of his illness they live with his parents in Glasgow, occupying separate rooms. Mrs McMahon

had maintained that she neither lived with her husband nor was maintained by him. The national insurance tribunal had originally agreed by a two-to-one majority that she fulfilled the conditions and awarded her the allowance.

Mr McMahon's father, Mr Andrew McMahon, a Glasgow district councillor, said of the decision: "I am deeply disappointed. Apparently, this allowance can be paid to a father or mother, a brother or sister, but not to a wife. It seems to cut right across the Sex Discrimination Act."

He said the commissioner's ruling had disclosed "a bare-faced anomaly". He would ask Mr Jo Grimond, his son's MP, to take up the matter in the Commons.

Friendly cowman is key to higher milk yields

By Hugh Clayton

Agricultural Correspondent

Dairy herds with friendly cowmen produce more milk, an agricultural scientist said yesterday. Dr Martin Seabrook, of Nottingham University reported that the higher yielding herds have cowmen who talk to their cows, pat them and go up to them in the field.

He published the results of a survey of 50 herds after four years' study of the influence on milk yields of dairymen's personalities. "The higher yielding herds tended to have confident introverts as cowmen," he said.

More than half the cowmen surveyed were found to swear at their animals and one in fifty sang to them as well. When Dr Seabrook investigated factors upsetting cows, 29 cowmen cited strangers, three mentioned women and two the music of the Bay City Rollers.

He found after examining herds with about seventy cows that those who often talked to the animals secured a mean milk yield about a twelfth higher than those who seldom spoke. Those who patted the cows went about a tenth more milk than those who did not.

Dr Seabrook, a lecturer in management economics, said it was impossible to calculate how

much his work on cows cost. "I do some work for the Ministry of Agriculture on the economics of milk production, so I go round farms. I have a certain amount of time when I am free to do research and I have a certain interest in having a show on an interest."

He said the Government's leading agricultural adviser, said yesterday that the poultry industry had been saved £6.5m at a discovery at an experimental government farm. Scientists had established that if the temperature in broiler houses was raised slightly the birds needed to eat less to produce the same amount of meat. Dr Dexter, director-general of the farm advisory service of the Ministry of Agriculture, told farmers in Shrewsbury that such developments were needed to keep British agriculture competitive in the world.

Sir Henry Plumb, president of the National Farmers' Union, called for government aid to pig producers. The latest cuts in wholesale prices amounted to a calamity on top of a disaster, he said at Alwoodley, near Leeds. Returns to producers would be cut by £2 for each animal.

Farmer put ring through dog's nose and filed teeth

From Our Correspondent

Welshpool

Two men inserted a metal ring through a sheepdog's nose and filed its teeth down because it had bitten lambs, magistrates were told at Llanfair Caereinion, near Welshpool, Powys, yesterday.

Allen Williams, aged 46, a farmer, of Glyndwr, Llanfair Caereinion, pleaded guilty to causing unnecessary suffering to the dog, was fined £20 and ordered to pay £50 costs; David Leonard Davies, aged 36, a farmworker, of Bronwenall, Llanfair, who pleaded guilty to aiding and abetting him, was given an absolute discharge.

Inspector Leonard Jones, of the RSPCA, said it was the first case of its kind brought by the police. "I put a wire ring through the dog's nose. I filed its teeth down because it broke a lamb's leg. It is not cruel."

Mr Jones said that Mr Davies told him: "When we put the ring in the dog's nose it was growing and howling as if in pain."

Mr Ian Bainbridge, for the two men, said it was not unusual for a metal peg ring to be inserted in a sheepdog's nose to stop it biting sheep.

The magistrates decided that the dog could be returned to Mr Williams, after agreeing that it should remain with the RSPCA.

Indian help sought for Asian queue

By Neville Hodgkinson

Social Policy Correspondent

The Indian Government has been asked to press Britain to help thousands of East African Asians who are stranded in India although they hold British passports.

The request has been sent through the Indian High Commission in London to officials in Delhi by Mr Pratul Patel, secretary of the Committee on United Kingdom Citizenship. Dr Summerskill, Under-Secretary of State, Home Office, who is touring the sub-continent, is due in the Indian capital today. She is looking into the work of British missions on immigration.

Mr Patel also raised the issue of the waiting Asians with Home Office officials in London this week and with organizations of British passport holders in India.

He said yesterday that he had asked the Indian Government to put its demands to Dr Summerskill. The families are concerned with those British passport holders of Asian ethnic origin whom India has admitted from East and central Africa in recent years but who find it difficult to leave the country.

India's aim, he said, had been to stagger the flow of East African Asians into Britain by allowing India to be used as a staging post. But as the rules were applied at present, families were having to wait several years, during which they were barred from employment in India.

To reduce the length of the queue, India's quota under the special entry vouchers system should be increased from 500 a year to 1,500. That should be possible without an increase in the overall total of 5,000 vouchers because the pool of those waiting entry direct from East Africa was almost exhausted.

Mr Patel's second demand is for a change in the way the Foreign Office is applying the rules governing the grant of entry certificates to the dependants of heads of households who have obtained their special vouchers.

He said men who had already waited between three and five years for their vouchers were being told that their families would have to wait a further 15 to 18 months before joining them in Britain.

WEST EUROPE

Mr Jenkins undaunted after all-night session to allocate EEC jobs

From Michael Hornsby

Brussels, Jan 7

At 5.30 this morning, after nearly 15 hours of bargaining over portfolios among the 13 members of the new European Commission, Mr Roy Jenkins, emerged, shellshocked, but undaunted, from his first important test as the Commission's President.

Describing the long horse-trading as a useful baptism into "the most important job I have ever tried to do in my life," Mr Jenkins told a press conference that his aim was to be a European President rather than a British one.

The new President declined to discuss in any detail the Commission's policy priorities, maintaining that his first duty was to the European Parliament, before which he will be appearing with the other 12 commissioners in Luxembourg next Tuesday. On the same day they will swear an oath of independence from national governments before the European Court of Justice.

The bargaining session was one of the toughest observers here could remember, but by no means the longest. Under the presidency of the Belgian, Mr Jean Rey, the Commission took six weeks to share out the jobs.

He is likely to give a higher priority to consumer interests than his predecessor, Mr Pierre Lardinois, and on past evidence is also expected to be more sympathetic to the British and Irish case for special protection for their fisheries.

Responsibility for negotiations within the framework of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (gatt) on textile questions is now part of the wide-ranging brief held by Viscount Edmond Devalign, of Belgium.

The task of negotiating EEC entry terms with Greece and other possible applicants, such as Portugal and Spain, which was formerly part of Sir Christopher Soames's dossier, will fall to Signor Lorenzo Natali, a Christian Democrat and one of the two new Italian commissioners. He has also been given a new responsibility for "contacts with the governments and public opinion of member states" regarding direct elections, and is expected to chivy governments who fall behind in completing the necessary preparations.

Mr Christopher Tugendhat, the former British Conservative MP, will draft the EEC's annual budget, while Mr Jenkins, in addition to the traditional presidential duties, is to assume personal responsibility for information policy and press relations.

Dr Soares tries to curb rumours in the press

From Richard Wigg

Lisbon, Jan 7

Portugal's Socialist minority Government, upset by a fresh spate of right-wing rumour-mongering, has decided to ask Parliament to curb what it sees as irresponsible press reporting.

Dr Mario Soares, the Prime Minister, in today's issue of *Expresso*, said there was no wish to go back to the "notes of advice" to editors of the *Salazar* regime; but he severely criticized journalists and editors "not up to the responsibilities of their posts."

A statement issued after a Cabinet meeting last night said the Government wanted steps taken to "put the stop to the use of press organs to create an artificial climate of instability and alarm and propagate fascist or anti-democratic ideologies."

Right-wing newspapers like *O Dia* have this week been speculating about the return of Salazar, particularly on the economic side, and suggesting that the Prime Minister may eventually be replaced.

What has apparently incensed Dr Soares was yesterday's front-page cover of the *O Seculo*, a nationalized daily close to the opposition Social Democrat Party. This 96-year-old newspaper has been in acute financial difficulties and last month the Government summarily removed its editor, provoking lively protests from the Social Democrats.

The Soares Government is preparing to remodel the nationalized press to make it economically more viable alongside the privately owned press. It is worried about the loss of private capital, now giving a new lease of life to some of the more right-wing publications, which sensationally exploit anything they can find unfavourable to the Socialists.

"The Government cannot allow newspapers to continue to create such a climate when there is now a general calm in all spheres—military, financial, economic and popular," Dr Soares observed today.

However, last night's statement gave no lead to Parliament on precisely what measures should be taken. The Portuguese constitution expressly forbids censorship.

The Cabinet also decided to prepare a "black book" to clarify public opinion on the "crimes, violence and abuses" of the previous regime. This was necessary, the Cabinet statements said, to counter the resurgence of fascist ideology.

Dr José Medina Carreira, the Minister of Finance, in an interview in today's *Diário da Notícias* rejected the idea of a devaluation of the escudo to help stimulate recovery of the Portuguese economy.

Instead he foresaw tightening of import restrictions and progressive reduction of subsidies to the nationalized sector. For the first time he proposed reduction of taxes in the higher income brackets to give incentives to executives and stop them going abroad.

British airliner's 'near miss'

The crew of a Scandinavian Airlines System DC9 airliner filed a "near miss" report with Dutch aviation authorities after their aircraft had passed closer than a British Airways BAC 1-11 airliner.

British Airways said in London last night that their captain had not filed an air miss report, nor had he sighted any other aircraft when the incident was alleged to have occurred over Amsterdam on Wednesday.

Mass executions in Spain's civil war caused Communist leader to be known as the 'Assassin of Paracuellos'

From Harry Debelius

Madrid, Jan 7

The democratic halo at present worn by Señor Santiago Carrillo, secretary-general of the Spanish Communist Party, is somewhat tarnished by his own statements and his civil war record.

Although Señor Carrillo denies personal responsibility, few serious historians have much doubt about his role in the mass executions at Paracuellos, on the outskirts of Madrid, four months after the civil war in 1936.

Mr Hugh Thomas, the chronicler of that war best known to British readers, says Señor Carrillo was responsible for public order at the time of the killings, adding that the first order came from Carrillo to Paracuellos by their guards in a moment of panic.

Mr Thomas and other historians say that during the following days, mass executions of political prisoners were carried out in Madrid and Paracuellos, as well as in the other nearby towns of San Fernando and Torroja.

Exactly how many people died in the massacres at Paracuellos and other towns in the Madrid area is hard to say, but thousands of prisoners were taken from their cells in November, 1936, in the Madrid area, and never heard of again. There are authenticated lists, complete with dates, in a number of cases, including the 105 prisoners taken from the San Antonio jail on November 27 and shot.

The Paracuellos affair alone was certainly enough to justify Señor Carrillo's nickname in right-wing circles as "Assassin of Paracuellos," but it was not the only affair in which he was involved that might cast doubt on the sincerity of his espousal of democracy.

As Madrid's public order chief, Señor Carrillo, who was 21 at the time, is also reported to have given the order for the assault on the Finnish embassy in Madrid, violating, from a post in the government, the principle of diplomatic immunity in order to imprison those who had taken asylum in the embassy.

A decree signed by General Franco and promulgated on March 31, 1969, to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of his victory in the civil war, established a statute of limitations for such crimes, absolving Señor Carrillo from the threat of trial in connexion with the killings.

But if the dictator and most other Spaniards have forgiven, many of them find it hard to forget. Last January 3, the

right-wing Madrid evening newspaper *Alcazar* dedicated its front page to a huge black cross and a brief text in which it recalled those executed at Paracuellos.

The edition was snapped up. The eager buyers in Valencia—and possibly in other parts of Spain as well—included Communists buying all available copies in order to keep it from circulating.

Señor Carrillo was a leader of Socialist Youth when extremist elements of that movement killed Falangist student Matías Montero on February 9, 1934. Seven months later—still more than a year and a half before the military uprising which eventually brought General Franco to power—Señor Carrillo told Socialist Youth members in Spanish: "Don't be weak. Squashing an agent provocateur should give us the same sensation as squashing a cockroach."

In contrast with his present air of political respectability, Señor Carrillo said as late as October 10, 1975, when General Franco was already mortally ill: "I do not condemn violence. I am not opposed to violence. I accept it when it is necessary, and if the revolution in Spain calls for violence, as it has in other countries, I will be ready to carry it out."

Communist leaders agree on parties' independence

From Our Correspondent

Rome, Jan 7

The Italian and Romanian Communist leaders today firmly reiterated their belief in the right of all Communist parties to total independence. This claim was stated at some length in a communiqué issued after a two-day visit by Signor Enrico Berlinguer, secretary of the Italian party, to Bucharest.

Signor Berlinguer and President Nicolai Ceausescu, who met twice during the visit, also agreed fully on the need for Communist parties to collaborate with Socialist, Social Democratic and Christian Democratic parties in their efforts to create a new international order.

The visit and the communiqué were seen here as an opportunity for the Romanian party, in particular, to restate its independence from the Soviet Union after the visit to Bucharest by Mr Brezhnev, the Soviet party leader, last November. It had been asserted in some quarters that the Romanian party had had to retreat somewhat from its position during the visit for economic reasons.

Today's communiqué, however, left no doubt as to their stands. The two leaders insisted on "the full recognition of the right of every party to conduct its own policy on lines worked out and decided on in full independence."

They called for "the close observance of equality of rights and non-interference in (each party's) internal affairs and respect of its free choice... of methods and solutions according to the historic, national, social and political situation in every country."

Further remand for Dutch war crimes suspect

Amsterdam, Jan 7

A wealthy Dutch art dealer, under interrogation about Nazi massacres of Jews 35 years ago, was today ordered to be detained for a further 30 days by the Amsterdam criminal court.

The dealer, Pieter Menten, aged 78, has been in custody since being expelled from Switzerland on December 22. He has denied allegations that he was involved in mass killings of Jews in 1941.

Mr Menten fled from Holland on November 15 and was detained by Swiss police on December 6 while staying with his wife at a hotel in Uster.

A justice ministry spokesman said it had not yet been decided when a senior Dutch investigation team would visit the Soviet Union to collect evidence relating to the accusations.

Reuter.

OVERSEAS

Two regular Rhodesian soldiers desert and take refuge across frontier in Botswana

From Michael Knipe
Salisbury, Jan 7

Two regular Rhodesian Army soldiers—one American and the other Rhodesian—have deserted the Rhodesian Light Infantry and fled to Botswana.

The Rhodesian Ministry of Defence confirmed today that the American, Private Lawrence Meyer, had been absent without leave since December 30 but said his allegations were "grossly misleading, inaccurate and of a vindictive nature". The ministry statement said they appeared to have been made in order to obtain publicity and possibly "to raise funds and sympathy for a free trip home".

Both men claimed in the broadcast interviews that 30 per cent of the whites in the Rhodesian Army were foreigners. There have been no disclosures by the Rhodesian authorities of the number of foreigners serving in the defence forces but there are generally believed by most observers to be about 1,000 mostly South Africans, British and Americans. This figure would account for approximately one third of the whites in the Rhodesian Army.

The Ministry of Defence confirmed tonight that a Rhodesian Air Force aircraft crashed in the south yesterday killing three military passengers, including a squadron leader. It

described the crash as an accident.

A government communiqué said Rhodesian troops had killed eight African guerrillas in the past 24 hours, together with six African women accompanying them.

Our Nairobi Correspondent writes: Mr Ivor Richard, chairman of the ad hoc committee on Rhodesia, today received an assurance from President Nyerere of Tanzania, chairman of the front line African presidents, that the guerrilla war in Rhodesia would be halted if there were a true transition to majority rule there.

Mr Richard flew here tonight from Dar es Salaam for a weekend of "rest and reflection" at the conclusion of the first round of his African shuttle.

President Nyerere's statement, coming closely after the earlier assurance from President Machel of Mozambique, appeared to have heartened Mr Richard.

It is apparent that Mr Vorster, the South African Prime Minister, has pressed Mr Richard for an assurance that the guerrilla war will be stopped once there is a realistic acceptance of majority rule by the Salisbury regime. Mr Vorster clearly needs such an assurance to back up his pressure on Mr Smith to accept majority rule.

Mr Richard will be in Nairobi while the "front line" presidents are meeting this weekend in Lusaka. He hopes that his contacts with them have helped to prepare for a

resumption of the Geneva talks, but he now appears to accept that they are unlikely to resume on January 17 as planned.

He is meeting Dr Waiyaki, the Kenya Foreign Minister, tomorrow, and expects to fly to Lusaka on Monday.

Lusaka, Jan 7.—All the nationalist leaders attending the Geneva talks on Rhodesia except Bishop Abel Muzorewa will attend this weekend's summit of the front line nations here, nationalist sources said today. The states are Zambia, Tanzania, Botswana, Mozambique, and Angola.

Mr Robert Mugabe, regarded as spokesman for Zim (Zimbabwe People's Army) forces based in Mozambique, will arrive from Maputo. Mr Joshua Nkomo, his ally in the Patriotic Front, will arrive from Lusaka, and the Rev Ndabaningi Sithole will fly in from Dar es Salaam.

Relations between the bishop and the Zambian authorities are strained as a result of recent statements by ANC officials accusing the front line leaders of entering a tacit agreement with Britain and the United States to install Mr Nkomo as the leader of an independent Zimbabwe state, observers say.

Zambia's Government controlled dailies, the *Zambia Daily Mail* and *Times of Zambia*, today headlined reports from Maputo that President Machel of Mozambique had thrown his weight behind the latest British effort to get a peaceful settlement.—Agence France-Press.

New disputes over Kennedy inquiry

From Fred Emery
Washington, Jan 7

The new congressional investigation of the assassinations of President Kennedy and Dr Martin Luther King, the civil rights leader, has become embroiled in new controversy.

Indeed, the investigating committee is at present in official limbo after the Republican objection to its planned \$13m (£8m) budget, the most expensive on a congressional investigation.

The committee should shortly regain its authorized existence, but the budget demand by its chief counsel, Mr Richard Sprague, is certain to be cut or paralled out in instalments.

Another dispute has arisen over Mr Sprague's plans, in the interests of having the most thorough investigation to all investigations, to use miniature radio transmitters, recording devices and the controversial "stress evaluator".

The latter subjects tape recordings to analysis and purports to be a "stress evaluator".

The incoming chairman of the House of Representatives committee on assassinations, Representative Henry Gonzalez, has ruled this out of order. "We are not

going to become a Legislative Central Intelligence Agency", he said.

Another dispute concerns a bullet found on the railway tracks near the place in Dallas where President Kennedy was killed.

It is now in the possession of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) which wants to try to identify it by comparison with bullets tested from parts of alleged assassins' rifles.

However, the latter are in the custody of the National Archives which is holding them for the House committee's inspection.

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However, the latter are in the custody of the National Archives which is holding them for the House committee's inspection.

Kissinger critics chosen for State Department posts

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington, Jan 7

Eight new appointments to senior posts in the State Department, including those of several former assistants to Dr Kissinger who resigned in disenchanted, have been announced today by President-elect Carter.

The most senior is Mr Philip Habib, who continues as Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, the number three position.

Mr Habib, a former deputy Ambassador in Vietnam and Ambassador in South Korea, served with Mr Cyrus Vance (Secretary of State-designate) in the opening year of the Vietnam peace talks. He is a no-nonsense man who managed to disagree with Mr Kissinger and retain his chief's respect.

Mr Carter's other appointments are Professor Richard Gardner of Columbia University, as Ambassador to Italy; Mr Matthew Nimetz, a New York lawyer, to be State Department counselor; and Mr John R. Bunker, a black career diplomat, as director of the United States Information Agency.

Another Kissinger critic, Mr Richard Moose, has been appointed Deputy Under Secretary for Management.

He has been a senior staff member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and served with distinction with Mr James Lovelace in the survey of American commitments overseas. Their reports brought about much of the foreign policy reappraisal begun in Congress in the seventies.

The new director of the policy planning staff will be Mr W. Anthony Lake, who resigned from Dr Kissinger's national security staff over the Cambodia "incursion" in 1970, and subsequently had his telephone tapped—for which he is still suing Dr Kissinger.

Mr Carter's other appointments are Professor Richard Gardner of Columbia University, as Ambassador to Italy; Mr Matthew Nimetz, a New York lawyer, to be State Department counselor; and Mr John R. Bunker, a black career diplomat, as director of the United States Information Agency.

New York's decision day for Concorde

From Michael Binyon
Washington, Jan 7

Concorde will be allowed to continue flying to Washington until the end of its trial period in June and a decision by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey on whether to allow the plane to land there is now expected on February 10.

At the request of Air France and British Airways, oral arguments in their court challenge of the authority's ban on the supersonic jet has been postponed until February 18.

Continuation of Concorde's 16-month trial period, which began last February, was promised today by Mr Brock Adams, Mr Carter's choice for Transportation Secretary.

He said he would monitor closely the studies being made on noise levels of Concorde, which at present flies only to Dulles airport, near Washington. He said he was satisfied the opportunity for an objective evaluation was the limit of the commitment given by Mr William Coleman, the present Secretary of Transportation, and the United States Government to Air France and British Airways.

Harrier jets trouble US Navy

Washington, Jan 7.—The United States Navy has had serious problems keeping its British-made Harrier jump-jet aircraft ready for combat. At one time 77 per cent were unfit for operations, a congressional watchdog body said in a report today.

The General Accounting Office said the American programme had been hampered by competition with Britain for spare parts, British firms not meeting delivery schedules for parts, and delays in getting items repaired in Britain.

The congressional agency said the Navy had turned to an American firm, McDonnell-Douglas Aircraft, to help develop a Harrier maintenance programme.

During 1974 and 1975 "operational readiness levels" for the Harrier, the Western world's first short take-off and landing aircraft, averaged only 42 per cent. The General Accounting Office said. This meant that on average 58 per cent of the Harriers were considered unsafe to be flown on at least one mission.

On occasion, as many as 77 per cent were unfit for operations.

Since 1969 the United States has spent more than \$500m (£240m) on the Harrier. It has bought 97 and has another 13 on order.—Reuters.

Pakistan turns Sunday into Friday
Islamabad, Jan 7.—Friday will be observed as a weekly holiday in predominantly Muslim Pakistan, instead of the Christian Sunday, from next July, Mr Bhutto, the Prime Minister, announced today.

Fear of the future brings big increase in emigration 'Exodus' of whites worries South Africans

From Nicholas Ashford
Johannesburg, Jan 7

John is a young general practitioner in Cape Town. He lives comfortably with his wife and two small children in a house overlooking the sea at Fish Hoek, south of Cape Town. He plays tennis and swims, runs two cars and enjoys, by British medical standards, a good salary. Yet just before Christmas he sent off an application form to emigrate to Australia.

Martin B is a young manager with a large commercial organization in Johannesburg. Married with one child, he lives in a typical middle-class house in the city's northern suburbs with a swimming pool, a maid and a gardener. A few months ago, without telling any of his closest friends, the family packed their bags and left for Australia.

Barry C is an investment banker with a South African subsidiary of a British merchant bank. Last September he was away from home for about six weeks and friends guessed that he had left his wife. He had, in fact, been to the United States looking at job opportunities there. He is still deciding whether to emigrate or not.

These three have one thing in common: they are thousands of other South Africans, many of them professional people, who have recently made up their minds to leave. As a result of the political upheavals in Angola, Rhodesia and particularly in South Africa itself, they can see no future in the country for themselves and their children.

One young accountant bound for Canada put it: "I see no long-term future here for the white man. The Government does not have the ability or the will to move at all necessary to satisfy black aspirations. Even if it changed

its policy at this stage I think it is too late."

He added that events in South Africa, Angola and Rhodesia last year had convinced him that his decision to depart was correct.

A departing television producer took a more apocalyptic view. "I believe this place will be a graveyard in two years time so I intend to get out now." Many of his friends were also talking about leaving, but had nowhere to go. "People are worried because they can see no solution to our problems."

The exact extent of what is now being referred to as a "white exodus" is hard to tell as official statistics tell only part of the story and potential emigrants often tend to be secretive about their intentions.

However, the outflow of many highly qualified people is causing growing concern in both pro- and anti-government circles, especially as it is realized that the exodus already could have reached more serious proportions had it not been for South Africa's foreign exchange restrictions and strict immigration regulations in many host countries.

Opposition English-language newspapers have devoted lead articles to the matter and carried interviews with families who have decided to pack their bags. They have also published readers' letters, such as the one from a white doctor accusing a group of American-bound doctors of "scuttling like rats".

On the Government side, both Mr Vorster, the Prime Minister, and Mr P. W. Botha, the Defence Minister, have publicly appealed to prospective emigrants to think again before leaving.

According to official statistics, there was an increase of almost 3,000 in the number of people emigrating from South Africa during 1976.

Britain, whose long-term future many South Africans re-

gard as being no better than their own, does not seem to have a popular destination although there has been a rush by British passport-holders (of whom there are believed to be about one million in South Africa) checking that their documents are in order.

Doctors seem to be one of the main categories of people who are leaving. A specialist at a hospital in Cape Town reckoned that between 10 to 15 per cent of his colleagues were leaving or planning to do so. Recently doctors have been taking block bookings on aircraft bound for the United States, although the figure was inflated by about 8,000 white refugees from South Africa's troubled northern neighbours, Rhodesia and Mozambique.

However, what the statistics do not show is that many of those who are leaving are families with deep roots in South Africa while many of the new arrivals are likely to be "short-termers" who will have no stake in the country. Furthermore, the "quality" of the new immigrants, many of them fleeing the rigours of Britain's cold economic climate, is thought to be lower than those who are departing.

The most popular destinations for South African emigrants are Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States. The rate of inquiries at the Australian Embassy has more than doubled since last year, while the Canadian Embassy reports a noticeable increase in applications then and after the Soweto riots last June.

A spokesman for the United States Consulate in Johannesburg says there has been a "several-fold increase in inquiries" since the beginning of 1976.

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Palestinian troops told to leave Lebanon

Beirut, Jan 7.—President Sarkis today ordered regular troops of the Palestine Liberation Army out of Lebanon by January 15.

He said the 30,000-man Arab League peace-keeping force, composed mainly of Syrians, would be used if necessary to make sure the Palestinian troops complied. The strength of the regular Palestinian Army is estimated at 10,000 men.

The decision was taken at a meeting today of the Arab League quadripartite committee responsible for the application of the 1963 Cairo agreement on the presence of the Palestinians in Lebanon. The committee, chaired by President Sarkis, is composed of representatives of Syria, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Heavy arms held by rival factions in Lebanon must be handed in by midnight, on January 12, the Lebanese President said in a communiqué. After that deadline Arab League troops would make searches and confiscate all illegally held heavy weapons.

The committee is to meet again on January 13 to study compliance with today's two orders, the presidential communiqué said.

The peacekeeping troops today reopened some of the roads closed yesterday between the Muslim west and the Christian east of Beirut. A communiqué said the decision was taken after a "considerable improvement in security".

The newspaper *Al-Ahram* reported today that President Sarkis would soon meet President Assad of Syria and, possibly, King Khalid of Saudi Arabia. Security in Lebanon would be top of the agenda for

the meeting, the newspaper said.

Mr Pierre Gemayel, leader of the rightwing Phalangist Party, said after meeting President Sarkis yesterday that an agreement between 200 and 300 saboteurs in Lebanon, trying to undermine the Arab League peace plan. "We must talk about security because without it we cannot be optimistic," Mr Gemayel said.

The main holders of heavy weapons in the 15-month civil war are the two main Christian forces and the Palestinian guerrillas who fought alongside and supplied them.

Placing heavy weapons under the control of the Arab League force was a condition of the ceasefire which took hold last November when Syrian troops intervened to stop the civil war.

However, all sides have been reluctant to comply. The Phalangist National Liberals refused to hand over their heavy weapons until the guerrillas did so. The guerrillas argued they were entitled to keep the weapons in southern Lebanon, where nationalists argue that the Palestinians forfeited this right when they used their arms in the civil war to support the local leftists.

The Palestinians fear that if they give up their weapons they will be completely under the domination of the Arab League force occupying most of Lebanon.

The heavy weapons involved on both sides include armoured cars, artillery, mortars, anti-aircraft guns, rocket launchers and heavy machine guns.—Agence France-Press, Reuters and AP.

Israel police halt inquiry into Ofer affair

From Our Correspondent
Tel Aviv, Jan 7

Mr Hillel, the Israeli Minister of Police, said today police had halted the investigation into the financial dealings involving Abraham Ofer, the Minister of Housing, who committed suicide this week.

He said the investigation would be resumed only if the Attorney-General ordered it. Mr Barak, the Attorney-General, is to report to the Cabinet on Sunday.

Mr Hillel said nothing criminal had been uncovered in the investigation, but a few points remained to be clarified. Accordingly, the Government had been unable to issue a public statement which Mr Ofer had been pressing for. He said he had explained this to Mr Ofer in a long telephone conversation the night before his death and told him the matter

must take another two or three days.

The complaints by Mr Yigal Leavir, an investigative reporter, concerned financial dealings when Mr Ofer was not yet a member of the Government. He had headed a Labour Federation building company and was a key Labour Party organizer and fund raiser.

Newspapers and political figures have called for a full-scale investigation in the light of earlier instances where officials took bribes or payments for the benefit of their political parties. They said Mr Ofer's death should not be used as a pretext for a cover-up.

But Mr Hillel said in a newspaper interview that there was not a single instance in this or any other recent case of criminal acts linked with a political party. He said the law provided for a long and thorough investigation and the inquiry was stopped.

Churchill's niece assaulted by Jamaica gunmen

Montego Bay, Jamaica, Jan 7.—The wealthy niece of Sir Winston Churchill was assaulted and robbed and two of her guests were wounded in a raid by armed men on her winter home yesterday, an official source said today.

Lady Sarah Spencer-Churchill, aged 55, a sister of the Duke of Marlborough, was held for several hours by the gunmen before she escaped.

The attackers shot Mr Michael Seal, a London interior decorator, in the arm, and seriously wounded the bodyguard of another guest at the Montego Bay house, Dr Herbert Eldemire.—Reuters.

Shots as Greeks board ship with £5m drug cargo

From Our Correspondent
Athens, Jan 7

The Greek Coast Guard intercepted today a Cypriot-registered ship carrying 10 tons of hashish, as it approached the Corinth canal.

According to informed sources, the ship was boarded when it stopped at Isthmia to complete formalities for entering the canal.

After an exchange of gunfire, in which there were no serious injuries, the Coast Guard arrested three Greek Cypriots and two Turks. The hashish was said to be destined for the Netherlands and to be worth £5.5m.

Dispute between bishop and author intrigues Argentina

From Andrew Tarnowski
Buenos Aires, Jan 7

Argentines are avidly following a scholastic dispute on immortality between their most beloved literary figure and a television churchman who calls him a "heretic, vain and blasphemous".

The devil's advocate in the dispute, who dismisses his opponent as a "hard-boiled bishop", is Jorge Luis Borges, the 77-year-old poet and author, three times proposed for the Nobel prize for literature.

Senior Borges aroused the wrath of Mr German Malagarray, rector of the north-

western university of Luján, by entering his territory and saying, on television, "Everything ends with death and it is miserable to hope for rewards or punishment in eternity."

The outraged bishop retorted that Senior Borges was distorting his own Catholicism and that he, personally, expected to receive the Lord's eternal prize "after 30 years of sacrifice".

Senior Borges, promptly showed that his wit, at least, has not been dimmed. "All I said was that for me death is a matter of hope—the hope of ending all this once and for all, including Jorge Luis Borges."

Pakistan to hold election in March

From Our Correspondent
Rawalpindi, Jan 7

Pakistan will hold a general election for the National Assembly on March 7.

This was announced tonight in the Assembly, which is to be dissolved on Monday, by Mr Bhutto, the Prime Minister.

He said he would ask President Chaudhry tomorrow to dissolve the assembly and pave the way for an election commission to organize the first general election since the separation of Pakistan's eastern part, now Bangladesh, in 1971.

Elections to the provincial assemblies of Punjab, Sind, Baluchistan and the North-West Frontier will be held on March 10.

Pakistan's new National Assembly with more than 200 members, will be larger than the present one. There will be a total of 400 members in the four provincial assemblies.

Gandhi emergency 'a gimmick'

By David Watts

India would see civil disobedience on an unprecedented scale unless Mrs Gandhi, the Prime Minister, took account of increasing public disenchantment with the state of emergency, Mr Kedarnath Sahani, former mayor of Delhi, told *The Times* in an interview yesterday.

"But after this split with the Communist party, I hope she will be wise enough to revise her attitude to the state of emergency and to other opposition parties", he added.

Mr Sahani, a member of the opposition Jan Sangh party, was mayor of the Indian capital from 1972 to February, 1975, when he resigned, alleging that the government had not paid for any city services in the previous nine months.

According to Mr Sahani, the 200m rupees (£13m) owing were paid after the Jan Sangh controlled city council of Delhi, the only big city not ruled by the Congress party, was abolished and its government put in the hands of a civil servant.

Since his mayoral term ended, Mr Sahani has lived underground in India, escaping arrest for 19 months by moving from house to house. He is now touring Indian communities abroad. He plans to return to India the same way as he left. "There are friends in the government machinery who help me move; otherwise I couldn't do it," he claimed.

Mr Sahani said that in spite of initial success after the declaration of the state of emergency in June, 1975, helped by good crops, the economy was now collapsing. At first prices had fallen because of large-scale dumping of goods as suppliers were not sure of market trends. Now prices were rising at 2 per cent a month and people no longer believed Mrs Gandhi when she blamed this on "anti-social elements" taking advantage of her relaxation of the emergency measures.

Mr Sahani said there were 8,700,000 people out of work in May, 1975. This number rose to 9,600,000 a year later. There was confusion over the growth rate. In a recent issue of the

magazine *Socialist India* the government claimed two growth rates—5.7 per cent and 4.5 per cent—one in an article and one in an advertisement. One government minister had even spoken of a 15 per cent rate. Though no public sector companies were allowed to dismiss workers, Mr Sahani said one area manager in the steel industry had told him he had 140m rupees worth of steel stockpiled, which he could not sell. With the bank rate at 20 per cent, he was paying 2.5m rupees a month in interest. Of 136 smaller steel mills in the private sector, 100 had closed.

Mr Sahani claimed the most significant development in recent months had been several strikes by workers in Bombay and Bangalore in spite of the fact that they could have been jailed for striking.

"People in India are starting to feel that the emergency is all gimmick", he said. "Mrs Gandhi claims it's for the good of the common man, but the common man is losing his job. The ordinary man is now against her."

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An expatriate view of America

by J P Donleavy/Part One

Stretched on shady warm Mexican sand, I write this in the tropics by the Pacific Ocean's surf under pale green coconuts ripening high up in the sinuously waving arms of the palm trees. And hope to finish it, as I am presently doing, in a far away more northern latitude where a whole gang of strange bugs, having a circus, are not settling through one's alimentary canal. As they have now recently ceased doing and I contentedly rewrite and watch the apple trees blossom and hear bird song in a mid-land Irish orchard with the rain gently falling from its grey tumbling source on this roaring green land. And I sit thinking, as I often do, of America. Where on that ancient continent and in this then hundred-and-fifty-year-old country, I was born 50 years ago in Brooklyn to be raised in the Bronx. And except for my first twenty years in the King of Cities, New York, I have been an alien nearly everywhere far most of my life.

Although the nation is now 200 years old, it seems by its din, violence and energy, that it only decided to begin yesterday. With its weaving concrete highways ascending and descending encapsulated in steel. A society rolling on wheels and daily fanned by a consumer propaganda to buy, buy, buy. And keep the vast coast to coast heap glowing. And the horseless carriages propelled on the infinite highways heading anywhere and everywhere in a million streams that by day snake like long dark threads and at night make twin white eyes moving one way and red tails the other. Only slowed or stopped momentarily by tornadoes, blizzards and earthquakes. And these itinerant occupants steering and tapping a throttle with their toes. Nudging over speed limits, listening to jazz and symphonies, lighting cigarettes and making phone calls in the vehicle they put on like a coat. Wearing it with its brand name. And by the colour, style and size, telling the world who they are.

Each time I go to these United States I start anew trying to figure them out. And after two weeks I decide that like anywhere, greed, lust and envy make them work. But in America it is big greed, big lust, big envy. Laced liberally with larceny. And unlike most of the rest of the world, at least everyone gets their chance. And if it's slow in coming, you can always buy a gun. Stop someone on a highway or street, or walk into a bank. And give me the money. Or I'll blow your fucking head off.

But when growing up there, I remember it somehow more peaceful. Playing marbles on the dusty hard ground. Along summer shady streets of the uttermost northern Bronx. Or wandering under the big old chipmunks with slingshots carved from the forked branches of the dog wood tree. Folk would give you an apple and a quarter if you moved your lawn. Or showing them a mean but were mostly fair. It seemed then a safe place to be. Except someone might pull your trousers down, smack you in the face with a snowball or bust your modest scopere. And you knew where the bad places were. Where something really awful could happen. And that's where you didn't go. Or if you did you were ready for trouble with your fist curled up. And your legs ready to run.

But mostly, across that wide spacious land, you could get big continuous hi there and hellos. As I did when summers my Irish immigrant father took us motoring west. Always in a brand new car. Crossing on the Lincoln highway. Out as far as Nebraska. Reading the rhythmic signs of Burma Shave along the road. Or shouting when we saw a Rex sign on a Pennsylvania barn. The plenteous of corn under the blazing sunsets across Indiana. The only fear was in Chicago. Where there was an epidemic of infantile paralysis. And I saw ambulances and fire trucks roaring through the streets. With the stories of the whole city once burning down racing through my mind.

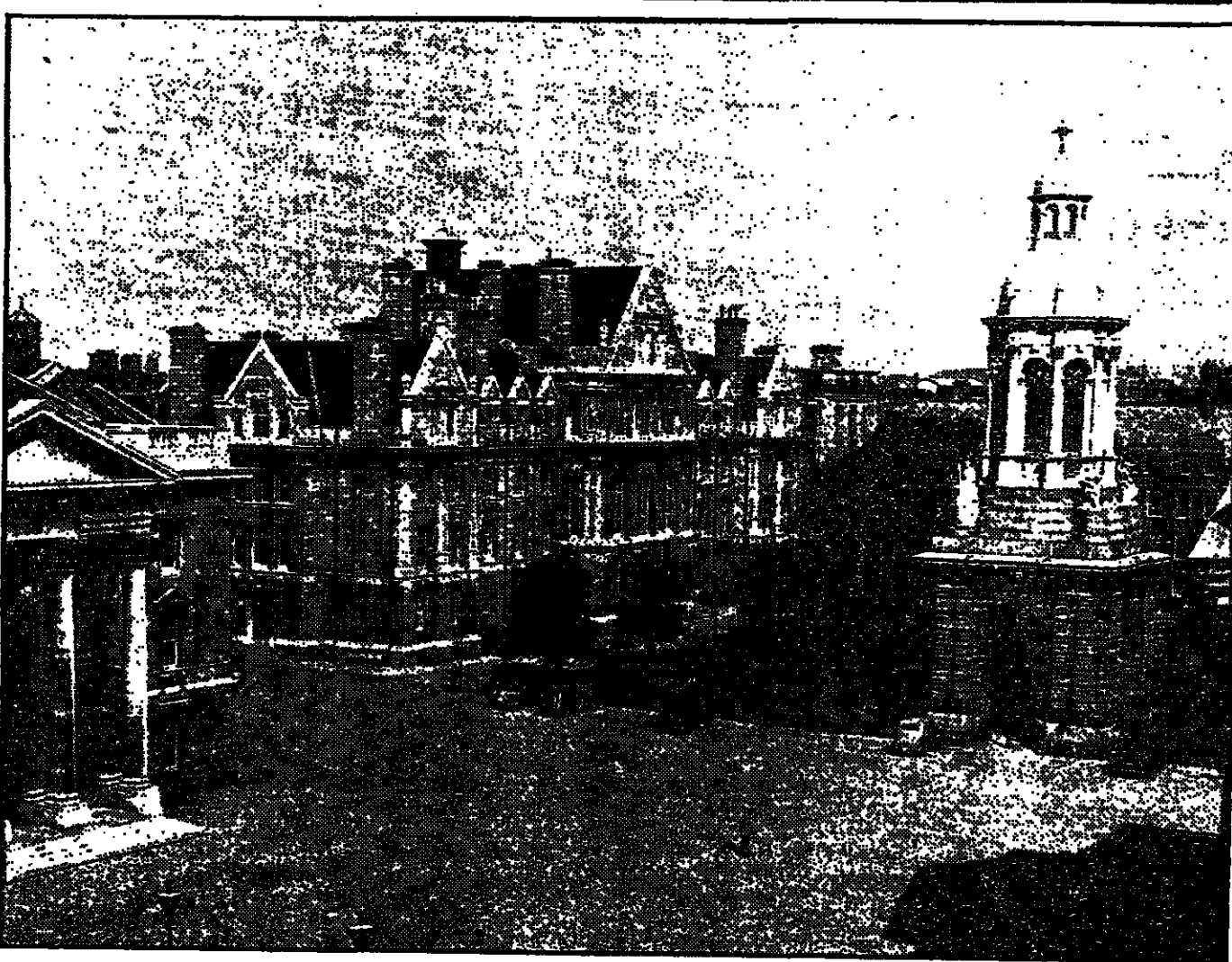
But out in each small town you could always find a sweet smelling tourist house with dew on the front lawn in the morning. Big creamy thick milk shakes at the local drugstore at night. And across the darkened plains, the wailing lonely sound of the freight trains. My father would with his big hands folded behind his back go down main street. To find any local philosophers taking an evening sit on the community bench. Or members of the volunteer fire department to tell them fire stories of the skyscraper city back east. For him America was

great. Bigger and better than anywhere else in the world. And Ireland where he had come from was where they did not have a pot to piss in. And while I was growing America grew and grew. With those dreamland suburbs spreading ever more widely between the cities. And even the right side of the tracks sometimes became the wrong. With enough get up and go go go, you could, provided you did not try it by writing poetry and symphonies, grow up to be merely a modest millionaire. And one hardly remembered the hungry men begging door to door during the depression. Who would call at our brick house on the highest hill in the Bronx. And although my father would not give them money, he would write these gentlemen into our tiled kitchen to sit and eat with us. Great heaping helpings of meat, potatoes and vegetables. And glasses and glasses of my father's elderberry wine. Before midnight came, with my father's roaring laughter and telling and listening to stories, the men would be at least well fed and distinctly unsteady on their feet. Departing down the front steps to navigate the steep potholed hill to the bottom. Where an elevated train thundered above the road. And it was the only time I knew there were poor people in America.

Because we had some neighbours too near who drove big bullet proof touring cars and never seemed to work for their money, we moved to another community and a lesser hill two miles across a river and railroad tracks. Here the Bronx streets were cooler. With lots of nice little boys just like myself to play with. Summers we spent in a shingle house back from the road between potato fields and near golden sand dunes and a pounding sea. With the heading names we'd pass getting there, of Jericho, Babylon, Patchogue and Osoque, making me think we were heading away from civilization. And one autumn, nightly, from my high bedroom window in back of the house, I could watch the rockets exploding their rainbow of colours over the distant World's Fair. Or on clear days see the trihedron they called a trilon and the big silver ball they called a perisphere. And everywhere and everywhere said that America was big strong and beautiful. Then came the Lindbergh kidnapping. New Jersey was suddenly somewhere awful. But the culprit was found in the East Bronx, a waste land of ugly junk lots, vegetable patches and shacks. Just where someone ought to live who would commit a grievous crime.

Cans now took the place of the glass jarred preserves that used to be made and stocked in our cellar each summer. My father's big wine barrels disappeared. I played street hockey on roller skates. And America seemed eternally peaceful. Until a foreign power did something evil on Sunday evening. I got expelled from a prep school and narrowly graduated from another. Just in time to go to war. And as a sailor one lonely Saturday afternoon with a twenty-four-hour pass I left my base at Little Creek, Virginia, where I was being trained as radar man in a crew. To sail an amphibious landing craft on to the Japanese occupied islands in the Pacific. Which I did not delight to think was really my cup of tea. Especially with the suicidal attitude of the enemy. And as one did then, most sensibly, instead of disappearing into the sailor swimming, bear swilling, and even prostitute fished town of Norfolk, I would, if I didn't seek out the peace of the local library, go and visit another naval base. And I remember, as evening approached and great flood lights switched on, walking along the harbour quay of this vast naval installation. Passing under the giant grey piers and anchors of mercantile carriers, battleships, cruisers and destroyers, all combat ready with their planes and tapering as far as my legs could take me. And I thought good lord, what idiot foreign power ever decided to take on this.

And someone did. And I saw arriving behind big wire fences prisoners of war. To whom we were ordered not to speak. And the hours were countable till the war in Europe was over. Sailors ran out of their quarters huts and looked up as if something would happen in the sky. Others shot fire axes and chopped decks in half that they were supposed to carry somewhere. Moored flocks of amphibious ships in the harbour were brooding and bear began to flow. I had some time previously, after much insis-



Top: J. P. Donleavy; The Bronx. "Everywhere and everything said that America was big, strong and beautiful." Bottom: Trinity College, Dublin. "A white-coated servant administer afternoon tea. The Lindbergh Kidnapping. The ladder used to reach the room where the child was sleeping." "New Jersey was suddenly somewhere awful."

tant begging of a welfare officer that I be given a chance to, taken mental exams and physical tests. And one day instead of sailing out to Dublin. And the stories of a returned sailor friend who told me you could in Ireland drink quietly and secretly with a glass of this black beer and piece of cheese in a little mahogany cubby hole in a pub called a mug. So with my piss poor high school record being instantly rejected by every American, and my mother's information that there was a college called Trinity, I wrote to Ireland to ask could I come. And I ran around for days looking at a letter emblazoned with an escutcheon of a lion, book, harp and castle which said yes, please do.

Throughout one's American upbringing somehow Europe seemed a strange and more tolerant clime. From which came the music of Mahler, Handel and Faure. And from where, refreshingly winging the oceans on short wave radio, you might hear in a dirty unmeasured word. Spoken out of its war torn wise old ways. But it was its pomp and circumstance which seemed to call. Even as one never wanted to leave the sweat socks, gleaming polished leather shoes, and the lazy just hanging around days of billiards and beaches. Or the bear saloons and dates at night with the tanned skinned, bright roothed ladies. But deep in one's back-ground there always lurked the sense of a foreign world in my parents' lives. For I had always been forbidden soda pop. And whenever I saw Coca Cola in another kid's ice box I was filled with awe. There were no

candy bars, bicycles or white bread. Instead my mother daily gave me an eyedropper drop of iodine in a glass of water. And pressure steamed five vegetables from the garden. Enviously I would see my friends trip down to the delicatessen to fetch back their combination salads and bologna meals. And sunny afternoons leaving on my way to the beach, my father, tending his dahlias, would gallantly say, "You have nothing to do but to enjoy yourself."

And so one October day climbing on an aeroplane, which three times went down the runway of Idlewild airport, and didn't take off, till on its fourth attempt three days later, I flew for fourteen hours via Gander to Shannon. Landing in this my country. With its dazzlingly white swans sailing on glistening ponds nestled in the quiet green pastures. Straight out of a fairy tale. And in a small prefab building by the grassy landing field, for breakfast I had bacon rashers. These monstrous and mahogany, were curled thick next to two gleaming sunny fried eggs. The big crystal grains of sugar. A strange liquid called tea. The yellow yellow butter. The corrugated crumbed brown flocked soda bread. And the simplicity. In this sea fresh moist air. Here all you had to do was to keep warm. And dry. To eat. To sleep. To listen. And drink in the pubs. And before you froze to death you had to start doing all these things in a hurry.

In Europe's slow awakening after the war, Ireland was an isolated outpost. And you found that you came as an glamorous envoy from an invincible and the most powerful


and richest nation on earth. Folk greeted you with a ready smile or with a curiosity tilted by lurking envy. You were an American over and above everything else about you. People came as they might to a museum to look in your cupboard. At the array of your 14 pairs of shoes. Your 15 suits and neat tall stack of shirts and underwear. And like Americans did you even gave some of them away. Folk sought your company. And always stayed like deer in you. Even if it is only the bliss of slathering vanilla ice cream over the deep blue purple of blueberry pie. And as a fairly, gloves with promise. And during those new born years after the Second World War when expatriates like me tried their luck and educations in Europe, spending their days in primitive strange discomfort, chilled and damp in Ireland, albeit with a white college servant to administer afternoon tea, or their nights bitten by bed bugs in Paris, they always felt that back there waiting for them that place they knew and understood, called home. Which, when the chips were down, they could flee for comfort of soap, showers, chocolate milkshakes and big purring automobiles. Of the pneumatic whirled drum majorettes cheering, the hot dogs banners, bunting, the beer. Of monstrous sleek money-rich corporations where, the grey charcoal-flamed welcome back, how nicely Mr D. you are qualified by your five cultured years in Europe,

split infinitive in the song's lyric. And then you knew that the only America you could now know would mostly reach you in the weekly news magazines. To restir your memory and some of your dreams. Of that wonder golden land being buried deeper and deeper by the new life you knew. But as far away as you may go, or as foreign as your life can ever become, there is something American that always stays and deeper in you. Even if it is only the bliss of slathering vanilla ice cream over the deep blue purple of blueberry pie. And as a fairly, gloves with promise. And during those new born years after the Second World War when expatriates like me tried their luck and educations in Europe, spending their days in primitive strange discomfort, chilled and damp in Ireland, albeit with a white college servant to administer afternoon tea, or their nights bitten by bed bugs in Paris, they always felt that back there waiting for them that place they knew and understood, called home. Which, when the chips were down, they could flee for comfort of soap, showers, chocolate milkshakes and big purring automobiles. Of the pneumatic whirled drum majorettes cheering, the hot dogs banners, bunting, the beer. Of monstrous sleek money-rich corporations where, the grey charcoal-flamed welcome back, how nicely Mr D. you are qualified by your five cultured years in Europe,

and by the way, I like your accent, I really do, and her with our board's most hearty compliments, is your fit monthly big bushel of dollars. And yet when I read no back in my letters written when I, like others, with boy confidently tucked up in a crook of one's tweed jacket arm, returned to that land of opportunity, I see the wistful escape, and other words to intending traveller, formerly Dayton, Ohio, decamped from Mount Arrat Road, Surrey wishing to join me. And whom I wrote.

The Northern Uttermost Bow
A Solemn Satire
"Dear Gaius,
Unfortunately your letter finds me in a beaten son. Coming here is the biggest mistake I have ever made in my life. Someone who has read The Ginger Man manuscript has pointed out that it were published here could mean my passport would be revoked by the State Department and would be forever doomed stay in this country. If it come be prepared for it. It is a fantastic red scare but there is no pie in the sky expected. This is not a land of the big noble rich everyone is screwed. This is a fantastic red scare but the whole country understanding a rigorous censorship. want to go back to Europe where I can regain my civility. Come if you will be here. It is sad and tiresome. Where no man has the opportunity to feel any love continued on opposite page

KON-TIKI-AKU-RU
AND KON
FATU-HIVA



THOR HEYERDAHL

Over forty years ago, Thor Heyerdahl and his young bride decided to go 'back to nature' - to the remote tropical island of Fatu-Hiva. This is his account of the year that was to change his life...

My Year on Fatu-Hiva

Gardening

A vision of spring

There is no obligation on gardening scribes to look into the crystal ball, and perhaps I am silly to do so. At least I would be spared the derisory cackling of some readers when I have suggested that by the law of averages we might be in for a hard winter or a late cold spring and it has not come off.

I do, however, venture on to firmer ground and prophesy that the tremendous rains of last autumn will have caused considerable loss in the soil of plant food, particularly nitrogen, by leaching. That is, it has been washed down especially on the lighter soils, to lower levels beyond the reach of more shallow rooted plants.

Many lawns have recovered very well from the beating they took during the drought, especially those that were watered generously while watering was still permitted. But many of my friends are unhappy about their grass with many thin or bare patches. Some of these patches may yet fill in—you only need one grass plant every two or three inches gradually to cover a bare patch, and in any case it is easy enough to sow some seed in the spring.

Do not, however, be in too great a hurry—the last week in April is time enough to sow grass seed—even later, provided you can water the ground if necessary. But all lawns will benefit from applications of lawn fertilizer in the spring. Cultivated ground, also flower beds and borders, will also respond to fairly generous feeding, and in response to many requests we will be repeating

our special offers of hop manure, spring turf conditioner, and Phostrogen in due course. The other vision I see in the murky crystal ball is of ever increasing prices of fruit and vegetables. Mind you, I have little patience with people who complain about high prices of tomatoes—50p a pound in December. I have a friend who manages some greengrocers' shops, and while he cheerfully takes the money is very brusque with people who complain about the cost of these imported out-of-season items.

But, as any housewife knows, it is the out of season, the early or late crop that fetches the most money. And here with the help of greenhouses, frames and cloches we can do battle with the weather and win some valuable weeks in our efforts to produce the worthwhile crops. To help readers achieve this desirable result we shall be offering plastic cloches later this month.

The cost of greenhouse heating is now so daunting that I have concentrated all my greenhouse plants, bowls of bulbs, overwintering geraniums, dahlias and begonia tubers into two small greenhouses and a heated frame. Having such a large assortment of plants in one house brings its problems, because overcrowding tends to impair air movement, creating an unduly moist atmosphere no matter how carefully we water and try to keep the atmosphere "buoyant" as the old gardeners say.

This in turn tends to encourage moulds and other diseases—especially on primulas

and young geranium plants. We spray with a suitable fungicide when necessary, but we find one of the small electric fans hung high up in the house excellent for preventing these diseases from taking hold and spreading. The fan is hung as high as possible at the end of the house farthest from the door, and pointing downwards towards the door at an angle of 10 degrees. The warm air that rises is directed down again, and the air movement dries

condensed moisture on the foliage thus restricting the spread of diseases.

The current consumed by these small fans is negligible, and I believe the redirecting of the warm air down again results in a saving of fuel. These fans, available from Huxley Ltd, High Road, Byfleet, Surrey, are specially made for use in the damp conditions of a greenhouse, and over the years I have many times been thankful for ours.

Jobs for January
With the much improved insecticides available nowadays, for application in spring and summer, many gardeners do not spray their fruit trees with a tar oil winter wash every year against aphids and other pests. Even so, I like to spray my fruit trees and bushes with a tar oil spray every third year, and besides dealing with overwintering pests it does clean up the trees and bushes of green algae which, in my garden at least, is rather bad this year after the wet autumn.

I spray not only my fruit trees and bushes, but also ornamental deciduous trees and shrubs if the branches are covered with

algae. Do not, of course, use these winter washes on evergreens, and do not let the spray fall on foliage of plants growing beneath the deciduous trees or shrubs.

Finish gathering up fallen leaves and clearing last year's debris from flower beds and borders. Be particularly careful to remove leaves that may be pro-

viding cover for slugs in the rock garden or in flower borders.

Check fruit and vegetables in store; many are not keeping too well this year.

Order seeds and any garden sundries such as string, wire, labels, insecticides and the like, which you know you will need later on. They are bound to cost more as the months go by.

If you can track down a local supply of seed potatoes, get them as soon as you can and set them up to sprout in a frost free greenhouse or spare room. Then you can plant them under cloches in March, or in tubs, pots or deep boxes in a cold frame or, better still, in a heated greenhouse, to get that very welcome and valuable early crop in May or June.

If the weather is too wet or cold to work outside, there are usually some jobs to do in the garden shed or the garage. Treat the bottom foot or so of canes and stakes with a wood preservative. These items are becoming very pricey these days.

Roy Hay

Chess

The battles at Hastings

Someone from the BBC Television science section came down to Hastings to do a filmed interview with me on the subject of my code-breaking work at Bletchley Park during the Second World War. During his researches he had come across so many chess-players that he wanted to have a chess background for my interview.

I had the idea of using the Hastings Chess Club for the purpose. It proved a wise choice. This was an Elysium inhabited and blessed not so much by the souls of poets dead and gone, but by such departed spirits as Steinitz and Lasker, Capablanca and Bogoljubov, and most recently of all, Hugh Alexander and Paul Keres.

There they all were on the wall, photographed in their moments of triumph: Emanuel Lasker, modestly victorious over Reinhold and Paul Keres, the handiwork of the most attractive of all the immortalists. These all seemed to gaze down quizzically on my efforts at explaining how the German naval codes were broken. It was some 30 odd years ago that I had been working as a cryptographer in the Foreign Office and I was fully conscious of the fact that Hugh Alexander, for example, would have been much better qualified for the task of explanation than I was. He was undoubtedly the driving force behind the whole organization of the Naval Section.

Anyway, my interviewer seemed well satisfied with the explanations and afterwards he asked me why had Hastings become the traditional scene of a great chess tournament.

For a moment I was taken aback and I had to examine my mind closely before I could come up with the answer which, put in its simplest terms, was "H. E. Dobell".

The story of the first great international at Hastings in 1895 is to be found in the tournament book, in the introduction it is told how Dobell suggested organizing a great international tournament in Hastings. His energy and his skill were such that he organized one of the greatest tournaments in the history of the game.

With the world champion, Emanuel Lasker, the former world champion Steinitz and one who thought he should have been world champion, Dr. Tarrasch, in addition there was Tschigorin, the patron saint of Russian, and subsequently Soviet, chess, and all the world's best chess-players, including a young and most promising American, Pillsbury.

Curiously enough, it was the last named who did in fact win the first prize, whereas Steinitz, who finished only sixth, did at least have the consolation of defeating von Bardeleben in a most brilliant game.

The 1895 event was not the start of the present series of Hastings tournaments. These commenced in 1920 and, with an interval for the war years, have continued ever since.

Dobell was still the moving force for the earlier ones of this series and I remember him

in my youth as a gentle old man with a passion for chess and music, having seen him at a chess tournament in the daytime and then at a symphony concert at Queen's Hall in the evening. Though there have been a number of devoted organizers of the Hastings event since—Rider, Rhoden, Glyde and Morry come readily to mind—it was Dobell who was responsible chiefly for the tradition of chess at Hastings.

He would have enjoyed the present tournament, the Ladbroke Premier, in which the sort of fighting chess he admired is being played. Here is a game from the first round which, if not free from errors, is still most exciting.

White: Keresblack: Keres
Q. P. Queen's Indian Defence.
1 P-Q4 K-K3 2 N-K3 3 P-K3 4 P-Q4 5 P-K3 6 P-Q4 7 P-K3 8 P-Q4 9 P-K3 10 P-Q4 11 P-K3 12 P-Q4 13 P-K3 14 P-Q4 15 P-K3 16 P-Q4 17 P-K3 18 P-Q4 19 P-K3 20 P-Q4 21 P-K3 22 P-Q4 23 P-K3 24 P-Q4 25 P-K3 26 P-Q4 27 P-K3 28 P-Q4 29 P-K3 30 P-Q4 31 P-K3 32 P-Q4 33 P-K3 34 P-Q4 35 P-K3 36 P-Q4 37 P-K3 38 P-Q4 39 P-K3 40 P-Q4 41 P-K3 42 P-Q4 43 P-K3 44 P-Q4 45 P-K3 46 P-Q4 47 P-K3 48 P-Q4 49 P-K3 50 P-Q4 51 P-K3 52 P-Q4 53 P-K3 54 P-Q4 55 P-K3 56 P-Q4 57 P-K3 58 P-Q4 59 P-K3 60 P-Q4 61 P-K3 62 P-Q4 63 P-K3 64 P-Q4 65 P-K3 66 P-Q4 67 P-K3 68 P-Q4 69 P-K3 70 P-Q4 71 P-K3 72 P-Q4 73 P-K3 74 P-Q4 75 P-K3 76 P-Q4 77 P-K3 78 P-Q4 79 P-K3 80 P-Q4 81 P-K3 82 P-Q4 83 P-K3 84 P-Q4 85 P-K3 86 P-Q4 87 P-K3 88 P-Q4 89 P-K3 90 P-Q4 91 P-K3 92 P-Q4 93 P-K3 94 P-Q4 95 P-K3 96 P-Q4 97 P-K3 98 P-Q4 99 P-K3 100 P-Q4 101 P-K3 102 P-Q4 103 P-K3 104 P-Q4 105 P-K3 106 P-Q4 107 P-K3 108 P-Q4 109 P-K3 110 P-Q4 111 P-K3 112 P-Q4 113 P-K3 114 P-Q4 115 P-K3 116 P-Q4 117 P-K3 118 P-Q4 119 P-K3 120 P-Q4 121 P-K3 122 P-Q4 123 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George Hutchinson

Could hopes of an oil bonanza turn into a North Sea bubble for Labour?

No election this year, says Mr Callaghan. Oh no? This is what he would have us believe and wish for himself, with understandable attachment to the office and privilege of office. But Mr Callaghan is not, and probably cannot become, the arbiter except in a nominal or technical sense. He is not in control of our affairs. Other forces are working their steady way by day. It is not the titular head of government, but events themselves that will determine the outcome.

To suggest that the Government is losing authority and respect is to express it mildly. Ministers are floundering even on a relatively simple and humdrum level of policy. Witness the shaming fiasco of the national day of the official holiday arrangements over Christmas and the New Year. Witness the bread shortage contrived by the middle-class and self-important Mr Roy Hattersley, who is charged with the protection of consumer interests.

Oil from the ocean is what the Government has to offer—as if that alone were guaranteed to transform the economy. Well, we shall see.

For my own part (and I am not alone in this, although I would be glad to be proved wrong), I fear that the prospect

of revenues may be grossly exaggerated, bearing in mind the uniquely heavy costs of extraction. The oil is undoubtedly there: whether it will turn out to be the source of our economic salvation is quite another thing.

If Mr Callaghan is relying on the North Sea (his new constituency, so to speak), his confidence rests on certain foundations. To say so is not to disparage or denigrate the efforts—the will, the skill, the resourcefulness—of those who are engaged in this arduous and vastly expensive enterprise, but only to suggest that, however valuable the result, it will not in itself be enough to overcome our economic plight. Ministers, not least Mr Benn, invite us to think otherwise. I can see no reason to accept their judgment, if judgment is the word: delusion might be a better term, propaganda a more accurate one.

Whatever the reality (as we finally discover it), whatever the doubts (as they may trouble us now), one thing is certain: a degree of scepticism over the financial returns from the North Sea oil can do us no harm. To live in expectation of a fortune still unsecured is often the path to disappointment if not ruin.

Not that the Labour leaders

—the present Government—are alone in their expectations. The polyglot party known as the Scottish Nationalists (a party of almost comical diversity in its essential political outlook and conviction) contains a similar strand of heady optimism. Like the Tory Party, though, "oil optimism" is here combined with the pessimistic reflection or foreboding that Labour may survive to enjoy the benefits—the new bounty—of the North Sea, should they indeed materialize.

In my own estimation, it is very unwise to repose so many hopes in our surprising oil fields. It would be marvellous, of course, if they lived up to the popular expectation which the Government is encouraging. In output, they may do so. In overall advantage to the economy, they may not. It might be as well to recognize the latter possibility before we assume too much, put our feet up and wait for the bonanza. There may be no bonanza at all, but simply an addition to our industrial resources, greatly to be welcomed but not in itself decisive in terms of the national economy.

Yet again, and again in vain, I looked for the name of Group Captain Leonard Cheshire, VC, in the recent honours list. Of

course he already possesses the nobility of all awards; and with that he possesses the respect and admiration of countless thousands in this country and abroad. But his services during the war have been equalled—perhaps surpassed—by his work in the intervening years. His Cheshire Foundation Homes for the disabled, of which there are 140 in 35 countries, are—and will remain—a monument to one of the finest spirits of his day and generation. By example, he puts most of us to shame. He is a truly heroic figure.

Why then has he not received—or been persuaded to accept—further honours? True, no further honours could add to the lustre of his VC: we all walk humbly in the presence of a holder of the Victoria Cross (and a triple DSO). But his existing dignity ought surely to be augmented in recognition of his unexampled services since the war. Not, perhaps, by a life peerage (they are two a penny nowadays); the Garter would be more appropriate—and in a jubilee year.

For my part (and in this I may speak for the country), I would like to see him designated Group Captain Sir Leonard Cheshire, VC, KG. Not surprisingly, the sugges-

tion earlier this week that the Queen might appoint her husband Prince Consort has been dismissed by the Palace. Historically, that style and title has been pre-empted. It belonged peculiarly—and still belongs, so to speak—to Prince Albert.

I am indebted to Mr John Grigg for another thought, however. Mr Grigg is one of that elite corps, the Club of Ten (or is it the Straight Eight?—I forget the exact number). He is a member of the noble band who have relinquished hereditary peerages in accordance with the provisions so helpfully enacted by Mr Harold Macmillan in 1963 in response to the exertions of Viscount Stansgate—that is to say Anthony Wedgwood Benn, who was determined not to remain a lord a day longer than he must.

Almost by definition, Mr Grigg is none too keen on titles. Nor is he actually advocating a new rank for Prince Philip. He thinks, nevertheless, that if something of the sort were contemplated in the era of sex equality, the Prince might suitably be accorded the title of King Regent. There are two precedents, as he put it to me the other day: King Philip, when married to Bloody

Mary, and King William, in partnership with the later Mary. Alternatively, Prince Philip might become King Consort for which there is no precedent.

Like John Grigg, previously Lord Altrincham, I am advocating nothing. I merely record the idea for your consideration. What a good and timely proposal by Mr Marcus Fox, the MP for Shipley, who is a vice-chairman of the Conservative Party. He is calling upon the Government to apply a road toll to commercial vehicles entering the United Kingdom from the Continent. No doubt he has all those dreadful juggernauts in mind more than anything—the source of so much damage and dislocation in many an old English town and village.

As Mr Fox was saying: "If a haulier from my constituency, for instance, takes a truck to the South of Italy, he will have to pay something up to £300 in European road tolls. Yet Continental commercial vehicles can travel the length and breadth of Britain without paying a penny for the use of our roads."

Ministers would be wise to support him and to act accordingly. If this costly intrusion cannot be stopped, it could at least be taxed.

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For Prince Andrew, deep freezes and hot maple syrup at Lakefield



Prince Andrew: bobsleigh runs and weekend teas.

Lakefield College School has suddenly been spotlighted by a roving beam of that fierce light which bears upon a Thorne now that Prince Andrew has begun a two-term secondment from Gordonstoun to this comparable Canadian school.

Lakefield is a small village in Ontario, standing at the head of Lake Katchewanooka, one of the last links in the waterway chain of the Keweenaw Lakes joining Lake Huron and Georgian Bay in the north. For centuries this was the best canoe route for the wandering Indian tribes, and the footprints of the Algonquians, the Mohawks, the Hurons and the Hurons have trod these ways, and their names linger on the maps of today. The lake is long and narrow, measuring some six miles by half a mile fringed in many places by swamp, and freckled by islands.

It was on a wooded hillside close to this village nearly a century ago that a Mr Sparham Sheldrake decided to found a school for the boys in the district. His first purpose reads:—

"Mr Sheldrake desires to inform his friends and the public that on and after the 23rd day of April 1879, he will be prepared to receive into his home a limited number of young gentlemen for board and tuition. Mr Sheldrake will give his whole and undivided attention to their instruction in all the elementary branches of an English education, together with Latin, Greek and French if desired. Every possible attention will be paid to their domestic comfort and happiness. And a great deal of care will be taken to inculcate moral and gentlemanly behaviour. The Grove is situated in a most healthy and delightful locality with ample and well-shaded grounds for recreation. Pupils will receive all the advantages of home comforts combined with a sound and careful elementary education."

His home nestled into a grove of tall Canadian pine trees and for some 80 years The Grove School was the affectionate name known far and wide for what was subsequently to become Lakefield College School in 1965.

Sheldrake was headmaster for 16 years (and gives his name to one of the Houses of the present school) and was succeeded by the legendary Dr A. W. Mackenzie who was headmaster for a remarkable 43 years until 1938. The Reverend Alick Mackenzie was a man of God, a lover of nature and the wild places, a sympathetic friend of generations of boys on whom he left his influence, boys who were to give leadership in peace and in war in Canada and beyond. "The Old Man" was loved by the boys. No wonder, for a crisp and clear winter morning when sharp frost followed thaw and the lake was a mirror of ice plunging under the winter sun, he would announce in chapel that there would be a whole holiday for skating up the lakes.

More important, however, was the sublime taste in the classrooms! He transported the living up to his tag as the "Fen Tiger" by often wearing a tiger-skin patterned gown and carrying an engaging hick image. He determined not to follow the usual pattern of successful fighters "moving down to London, finding new digs, buying a flashy car, and being lonely".

Dave Green has everything going for him—a helpful environment, a level-headed personality, a sensitive and successful manager, and a large measure of boxing ability. With a bit of luck, it should all lead to a world title for one of the most popular British boxers of recent times.

Marcel Berlins

school motto Mens Sana Corpore Sano to his wife who was loved for it. And the domestic results were not poorer. Perhaps the strict disciplines have hardened the years. Certainly it is Lakefield College School has an academic record to note.

The lake is certainly the finest feature of school life, but so too are the spacious grounds, many acres of wild maples and evergreen, run down to the water's edge in these woods there are more or more of little cabins owned by the boys and passed on generation to generation. Weekend teas in the "strawberry and nut" end of the lake, and a vivid memory of all Lakefield boys.

The bobsleigh run is a feature of Lakefield life. With the first snowfall, the hard frosts of November and December, boys will to school and begin the run, starting beside the buildings on the high and down the sloping half a mile to the lake. Toruous twists and turns contrived to bring the bobs down the icy track, the final dash spraying water to be a zero score can add an extra mile to the run. The Lakefield bobs are frozen deep and some hundreds of yards from the shore, the faster the run, the further the coast. And the boys, in their long drag, back to the top in next run.

The school and its built have grown and exist with the passage of years is now a marvellous combination of modern architecture, the years and such a long when the writer of this can recall the breaking of the ice on the top of the school building for the moratorium in a cold January dawn!

The maple syrup so famous at weekend and at most feasts did not have far to travel. One of the fascinating stories for Lakefield boys, the short Canadian show, the messy transition from the winter to hot summer, is to the maple trees for sap and to boil and refine it over open fires into the syrup. With the show follows the lake opens up and catches the lake dingles, canoes, and other water craft out of the nation for the summer season of boating for which the lake is justly renowned. It is a surprise that the lake is a surprise, and such is the pride in it on a distinguished Naval Cadet Corps, and out of its tradition it has a plied many sons to the Royal Canadian Navy.

Such is a glimpse of a mysterious name that has come up on the English television screens and such is the pride in it on a distinguished Naval Cadet Corps, and out of its tradition it has a plied many sons to the Royal Canadian Navy.

Terence Goldsmi

Sportview

Can 'Boy' Green punch his way to a world title?

Last year was something of an *annus mirabilis* for Dave "Boy" Green. A promising prospect at the beginning of it, he is now, 12 fights later, the British and European lightweight title holder, and a fair bet for the world title during 1977. He is, too, the area of phenomena in latter-day British boxing, a non-heavyweight who pulls the crowds.

In 1976, of our two world champions one, John Cooke, fought many opponents, but only one of them in the ring, and the other, John H. Stracey, managed ineffectually to lose his welterweight title to a clearly inferior fighter and has been sulking about it ever since.

Joe Bugner's stop-start career spluttered to a halt again, briefly to allow him to win back his British and European titles in a carefully orchestrated but scarcely credible struggle against Richard Dunn. Apart from "Boy" Green, only Maurice Hope and, to a lesser extent Alan Minter showed world class.

Dave Green (no one in his family or among his close friends call him "Boy") is 23 and has been a professional fighter for barely two years, during which time he has had 22 bouts, all of which he has won, 18 of them inside the distance. He has already tied with the longest unbeaten run by a British boxer, a record up to now held exclusively by heavyweight John L. Gardner.

A bald recital of the statistics, however, fails to do justice to Green. His appeal is founded on much more than the fact that he is a winner. He has brought back to British boxing an aggressive, exciting and dangerous style of fighting (significantly, his hero is Alan Rudkin) which is captivating to watch but which, when practised by most boxers, leads to defeat.

Coming forward all the time, with scything swings, hooks and uppercuts, some of which seem

to start from the canvas, he disdains discretion in the interests of offence.

He is not, however, the wild man which some observers have billed him. He has, for instance, an unexpectedly refined, if not quite classical, jab and a devastating right hand, but he has rarely allowed in any of his fights to be troubled by any of his opponents.

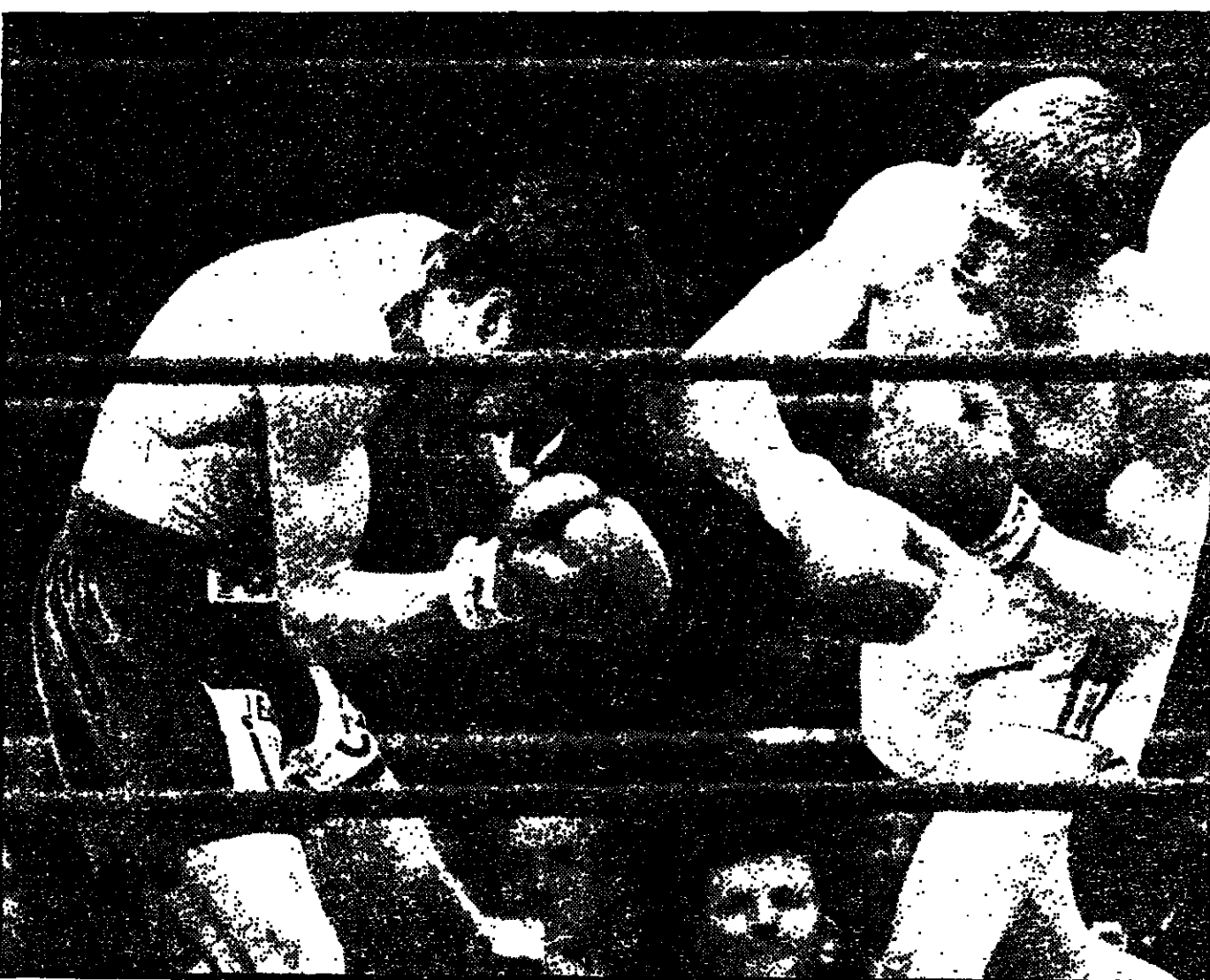
He is not a one-punch knockout artist, and most of the fights he has won inside the distance have been the result of remorseless, grinding, unceasing combinations of punches.

That has led to criticisms that he cannot pace a fight, and is wide open to counter-attack. He has only had to go 10 rounds twice, and in both cases so dominated the fight as to make the verdict unassailable. He has not yet been put to the proof of his stamina.

Green has also not yet met anyone among the top fighters in his division. He is now in the top 10 but has fought none else in it. He has fought only two American-style fighters who would fully test the openness of his stance and will have to fight a few more before he can aspire to either version of the world title, held by either a Thai or a Puerto Rican, depending on which boxing authority is to be believed.

He benefits from the great advantage of being managed by Andy Smith (also Bugner's manager), who has the enviable facility of being able to inspire in the boxers under his control, total trust in his judgment. Dave Green is quite willing to leave his future plans in Mr Smith's hands. If he believes I'm ready for a particular fight, that's good enough for me," he says. He obviously wants to fight for the world championship, but only if Andy Smith thinks it right.

More important, however, is the possibility of a fight with John Stracey, which would probably fill the biggest venue available in England.



"Boy" Green (right): bringing back aggression to British rings.

Stracey is one weight division above Green, but that represents only seven pounds, the light-welter division limit being 147 pounds, and the welter 154 stone 7 pounds.

In fact, many astute observers believe that Green would be as good as, and perhaps better, fighting in the upper division. Although he has no weight problems at present, he is heavily built, and might find taking on the extra few pounds beneficial to his performance. At present, a Green-Stracey fight is unlikely for the near future because Stracey is still undecided about the resumption of his professional career.

Dave Green the man is totally likeable, apparently unspoiled and unaffected by his newly achieved national fame, the calls on his time and the temptations of the bright lights.

Born and brought up in the Cambridgeshire town of Chatteris, also the home of the great former British lightweight champion of the late 1930s and postwar period Eric "Boy" Boon, Dave Green (whose "Boy" tag is a deliberate homage) has no desire to leave it.

His family and friends live there (his father has a farm on which Dave used to work) and

he and his wife Kay have now bought a house in the town. When he retires from the fight game, he wants to run a business there, of a kind not yet decided on.

Inevitably, he has now become a folk-hero there, and receives huge support from the townspeople wherever he fights. When he won the European championship last month, a contingent of 4,000 fans from Chatteris and its environs made the journey to the Albert Hall to see the bout. Green, apart from his boxing skill, has the priceless ability to sell tickets.

He enjoys the identification with that part of the country,

living up to his tag as the "Fen Tiger" by often wearing a tiger-skin patterned gown and carrying an engaging hick image. He determined not to follow the usual pattern of successful fighters "moving down to London, finding new digs, buying a flashy car, and being lonely".

Dave Green has everything going for him—a helpful environment, a level-headed personality, a sensitive and successful manager, and a large measure of boxing ability. With a bit of luck, it should all lead to a world title for one of the most popular British boxers of recent times.

Marcel Berlins

Crossword Editor Edmund Akenhead offers some puzzling advice Did Humpty Dumpty have the right idea?

Next to the apparent indeclinability of the compound personal pronoun "you and I" (I was pained to hear the headmaster of a well-known London school using "you and I" as the objective case in a television discussion, instead of "you and me") my pet aversion is the author who writes of clamour (or anything else) "rising to a crescendo" when he really means "rising in a crescendo" (excuse tautology) to a climax. Even that expression could be objected to by purists who, with the backing of the *Shorter Oxford Dictionary*, might point out that "climax" is taken from the Greek word meaning "ladder" and means an upward progression, and that its use in a "crescendo" is not correct. Pitfalls such as this surround the path of one whose business is words and who must therefore needs be a word-fetterer. For instance a reader has pointed out to me that "dilation" which appeared in a recent crossword is not the correct noun formed from "dilate", although it appears in all dictionaries: strictly speaking the noun should be "dilatation" which will probably be news to many outside the medical profession—there is a paragraph on the subject in Fowler's *Modern English Usage*.

One of these days I may clue "glory" as "a nice knock-down argument", and am only deterred from this by the thought of the hundreds of letters I should be expected to

answer on the subject. When Humpty Dumpty used "glory" in this sense Alice objected that "glory" did not mean "a nice knock-down argument". Humpty Dumpty scornfully replied: "When I use a word it means just what I choose it to mean—neither more nor less." and when Alice queried whether he could make words mean so many different things he replied: "The question is, which is to be master—that's all". The great British public will prove eventually to be master, as lexicographers will never agree, and most people will regard "climax" in the sense of "peak" and "dilation" meaning "enlargement" as accepted, and therefore correct, English usage. I mean "High Noon" is in opposition to "rising to a crescendo".

With the 12 days of Christmas (and its "partridge in a pear-tree" which I have long suspected of having something to do with the French for "partridge" being "perdre", only just behind us, it behoves us now to contemplate the coming Crossword Championship, in the form of the eighth "Curry Sark" Times National Crossword Championship—this could be yet another Guinness Book of Records?

The stages of the crossword are (a) the one and only qualifying puzzle which will appear next Friday, January 14, with full details and conditions in previous years there have been

two qualifying puzzles but this year there will only be one, (b) the Eliminator puzzle (of which more anon) on February 10 for all venues for which more contestants have qualified than can be seated in the accommodation available, (c) the seven regional finals at York, Edinburgh, Birmingham, Chester, Bristol, London A and London B each involving four half-hour sessions with a crossword to be solved in each, dates ranging from March 20 to July 10—full details next Friday, and (d) the climax puzzle of the National Final in London on September 4.

I should like here to present an apology, in the original sense of defence or justification, for the Eliminator system. Admittedly those entrants who adventure their £1 entry fees on the qualifying puzzle next Friday and who fail either through a mistake or that puzzle or through inability to make a sufficiently good showing in the Eliminator puzzle (in which solutions which are less than all-correct may well qualify—see below) will have lost their money, but those not prepared to endure this loss without complaint should not enter. In these days of a little more than a nominal sum and the combined entrance fees go nowhere near meeting the considerable costs of organizing the Championship, the aim of the sponsors, Curry Sark Scotch Whisky, is to provide entertainment for

however one may define this type of refined mental torture) for as many crossword enthusiasts as possible at the different regional finals within the limits of the accommodation available. It is quite impossible to achieve this with a qualifying puzzle so nicely contrived that the qualifiers will exactly fill all seven venues. If the puzzle is too difficult many competitors will be deterred and we should find some venues only half-filled. This year's one and only qualifying puzzle is designed to be neither particularly easy nor particularly difficult, and probably the two London venues will be oversubscribed—quite possibly other venues also.

The organization this year will ensure that competitors who submit an all-correct solution of the qualifying puzzle will be told individually through the post whether or not they will be required to attempt the Eliminator puzzle. The Eliminator has to be a more than usually difficult puzzle or it would fail to eliminate and everybody's name and effort would be wasted. On the other hand a competitor may well qualify even if he cannot complete his solution of the Eliminator, since it is only the least successful entries which will be eliminated.

Having thus, I hope, removed any suspicion of confidence trickery in what is intended merely as an enjoyable contest, I wish all crossword addicts a puzzlingly happy, even prosperous, New Year.

The long and the short of ski-slope fashion

Last winter I went into a London shop to buy a pair of the new breed of compact skis which I had been assured would prolong my skiing ability well into middle age. I left the shop sheepishly carrying a pair of skis emblazoned with the words "Hot Dog". On getting home I was dismayed to find them described in the catalogue as "for acrobatic and free-style mogul skiing". I wrote to the shop asking why a very non-acrobatic skier like myself had been sold such skis. A rather resentful manager rang up to say that he would not answer my letter but he could assure me that the skis were better for people like me than skis specifically designed for people like me.

If this was the case, I felt, something must have gone wrong with the lines of communication between the technicians who have now replaced mountain craftsmen as makers of skis and customers in search of easier ways of sliding down mountains. This indeed turned out to be at least partly the case. In the past few years new technology has made it possible to produce shorter skis of metal and plastic which provide the support and performance of the long planks of old together with ease of turning previously associated only with skis too soft to grip well on tracks or at speed. The agonizing choice between hard skis (good grip, bad turn) and soft skis (good turn, bad grip) is therefore vanishing.

This has also influenced the fashion of teaching, which are coming out from under the influence of god-like creatures from the mountains who could not understand the problems of flabby, terrified mortals on a "Hot Dog" holiday from an office desk. Teaching on short skis arrived first in America, where the Constitution supports the belief that people have a right to pursue happiness without suffering and danger. It was pioneered in Europe largely by the French resort of Les Arcs and is now slowly spreading. But until recently the aim was still to get people quickly onto skis well above head height. The new techniques of ski construction make this unnecessary. The shops and the racks of rental skis at Les Arcs and other progressive resorts are now filling up with new compact skis which, even at eye-level length, can satisfy most experts except those who want to travel at very high speeds, for which long skis are still necessary.

more crowded and more bumpy, and in America they are usually shorter than in Europe, so the young man's fancy turns to jumps, pirouettes, somersaults and other ways of expressing himself which delay arrival at the bottom, reduce the risk of high speed collisions and impress girl friends more than the bullet-like schuss to the bottom. Acrobatics require short, flexible skis. They will be tougher and more torsion-resistant than for beginners, but otherwise they will be similar, which brings us back to the Hot Dog skis. They do indeed turn out to be very good for the ordinary recreational skier.

But if this makes skiing easier it has made buying skis more difficult. The customer now finds himself facing a vast assortment of skis of different lengths, widths, shapes and materials and an almost equal variety of salesmen who often seem as confused as he is. Their lot is not easy, of course. New models pour off the assembly lines each year, leaving last year's models obsolete. Worse still, manufacturers have been extraordinarily bad at providing information which goes much beyond the claim that each new model will turn out to be the best thing ever. The most wonderful thing ever to have happened to skiing.

This seems at first less easily forgivable than ever before, since skis can now be designed with great precision. Yet this very precision in some ways adds to the problem. Individual

tailoring is easy, but the market customer comes every size, shape, level ability and range of age. (Americans say there are about 60 different ways of turning), so the manufacturer takes a stab at a broad target and hopes to attract young, old, fat and thin, tall and short and slow. This means the customer who goes into shop and gives his age, weight and a boring description of how he can usually keep feet together but somehow you know, when it gets a steep, more sort of, well, a little bit, is liable to vague and conflicting advice.

Descriptions more precise. This season things do seem to be sorting themselves out. Categories are more precise, but don't let it fool you. If you see a duffer or an age pensioner on a crocheting skis, he may have spent a little more than necessary. He is going to find skis a great deal easier than before.

The most impartial advice to be had from the Ski Club Great Britain. A journal recently published a survey of new skis, and members can call on Major Forbes, a equipment Advisor, who listens to their problems and kindly doctor and prescribes remedies from his vast art of samples.

Richard Da

مَكْنَا مِنَ الْأَصْلِ



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THE BRUSSELS PORTFOLIOS

Mr. Jenkins could scarcely have asked for a more thorough initiation into the ways of the EEC than a 13-hour meeting ending in a somewhat awkward compromise. As is normal in the European Community, political considerations came between the problem of allocating the portfolios of the new European Commission, of which he is the first British President, and its ideal solution.

It was political considerations which dictated that the major portfolio of external affairs should go to Herr Haferkamp, the senior commissioner of the most powerful member state, West Germany. Happily, Sir Christopher Soames has provided a strong foundation on which Herr Haferkamp can build, and leaves behind a gifted team of officials. No doubt when the top-level EEC representation is required, especially in the United States, Mr. Jenkins himself will sometimes display his gifts.

With the member states still grappling with the problems of recession and inflation, it is the economic, social and regional sectors which require all available talent, rather than external affairs. In these areas the new line-up is a good deal stronger than the old. Mr. Ortoli was the logical choice for economic and monetary affairs, and is well equipped both in intellect and experience to help reverse the present divergence, rather than convergence, of the economies of the member states. It was equally a good idea to entrust the able new Italian commissioner, Signor Giolitti, with the coordination of EEC funds.

WINDSCALE, BELVOIR AND SUCH

It is generally agreed, outside the nuclear power industry, that the Secretary of State for the Environment did the right thing when he asked British Nuclear Fuels, just before Christmas, to resubmit their planning application for development at Windscale by dividing it into three parts, so that he could approve the first two and refer the third to a local planning inquiry. It is the third part, plans for a large-scale reprocessing plant for uranium oxide fuels, which has aroused public controversy both because of the novelty of its technology and therefore the dubiety concerning its safety, and because it is seen to be another large step down the nuclear highway.

It should be automatic that large energy developments which have important implications for future policy as well as a sharp impact on the locality in which they are situated are exposed to public challenge and put under a necessity for public justification before they go ahead. Windscale is one such development, and there are two others in the offing: the imminent application of the National Coal Board to mine the Vale of Belvoir, and the approval that is being sought to build a demonstration commercial fast-breeder reactor.

A local planning inquiry, however, hardly seems a suitable context in which to deploy and test all the major considerations that must enter into a judgment on projects of this magnitude. The essence of a local planning inquiry is to air the question whether place A is suitable for development Y. But if development Y is the working of the richest coalfield in recent discovery in western Europe, yielding an estimated 450 million tons

An interview with Mr. George Thomson, the previous British commissioner for regional affairs, published in *The Times* on Thursday, showed with startling clarity that the Common Agricultural Policy works in an "anti-regional" manner by making rich farmers richer and poor farmers poorer. Signor Giolitti will need to cooperate closely with the able new Danish commissioner for agriculture, Mr. Gundelach, and with Mr. Vredeling, the Dutchman responsible for employment and social affairs. The EEC's regional, social and farm funds should pull in the same direction, alleviating unemployment and under-employment, and reducing regional disparities, rather than increasing them. It should be the Commission's task to work out how this could be achieved, however radical the necessary changes.

One of Mr. Jenkins's prime tasks will be to ensure that the Commission as a whole is unitedly pursuing a clear and coherent policy. In the past it has suffered from its vertical internal organization. This encouraged the emergence of piecemeal proposals which had worked their way up from the bottom of the various directorates-general. It also produced a woeful lack of consultation, let alone cooperation, between the different departments, which expended much energy in staving off encroachments on their own territory. Meanwhile individual commissioners also obeyed the territorial imperative.

Mr. Jenkins will have to foster the maximum of cooperation to

wards a minimum of well-chosen targets. Only if the proposals are of transparent relevance and realism will they stand much chance of gaining acceptance from the council of ministers in the present climate. The role of the Commission is not that of a European cabinet. Its task is to draw up policies, implement them once the council has decided on them, and ensure that EEC treaties and laws are applied. As it is often put, the Commission proposes and the council disposes. Theoretically this division gives the Commission a monopoly of the power of initiative. But increasingly the member states themselves have been nibbling at this preserve, sometimes by using the presidency of the council, currently held by Britain.

The Commission must try to regain the initiative at a time when domestic difficulties impede cooperation. It must be seen to be a source of constructive ideas, and a promoter of joint action, not just joint action programmes. Matters calling for attention are the alleviation of unemployment, the controlled expansion of the stronger economies, a coherent energy policy, a less wasteful agricultural policy, and a fair fisheries policy. In addition, there is the serious problem of entry negotiations with Greece, and possibly soon with Portugal and Spain. The Commission cannot coerce the member states into common action. But it can help to make such action seem a matter of enlightened self-interest.

to make it prudent to acquire a national capability for that method of power generation without making a commitment to exploit it, and what alternatives to fission are to hand or in prospect?

Under the planning Acts the minister has power to order a planning inquiry commission instead of a local inquiry if considerations of national or regional importance point to the need for something more high-powered and wide-ranging, or if unfamiliar technical or scientific aspects of the development seem to require a special form of inquiry. The device has never been used, and it would not be wholly suitable for the public examination of major energy projects since it would still proceed within the framework of town and country planning legislation, which is not the context of primary importance, relevant though it remains.

An alternative would be a parliamentary select committee formed for the purpose. Its membership would have to be strong, it would need to be generously serviced by experts, it would appropriately include local hearings, it might have to allow witnesses to test each other's evidence, it would in short have to be capable of carrying out a more penetrating and comprehensive examination than many a select committee is now able to do. But for Parliament, which is there to represent the interest of the public at large and to scrutinize the policies of government, it would be a natural extension of its constitutional functions to provide the means of examining such projects in detail, evaluating the policies out of which they spring, and exploring the ramifications of their effects.

ETHIOPIA AT WAR WITH ITSELF

The release of the Tyler family from their eight-month captivity by the Tigre secessionists is a happy conclusion to the long negotiations. The Foreign Office has conducted through President Nimiery of the Sudan. An important factor, one may suspect, is the increasing influence that President Nimiery has with some of the many groups of rebels warring against the Provisional Military Government in Addis Ababa. Relations between the Dergue, now revamped as a government of a people's democracy, and Khartoum have deteriorated to the point at which ambassadors have been withdrawn.

President Nimiery has warned the Dergue against its "anti-Sudan activity", pointing out that the presence of 250,000 Ethiopian refugees, and dissidents in Sudan endows him with leverage. Inside Ethiopia there are about six identifiable rebel movements demanding autonomy or independence, and minor armed groups. Most formidable are those in Tigre, Gouja and Begemder in the north as well as the two Eritrean secessionist parties. The quarrels between the latter—one Marxist, one more Islamic and nationalist—have prevented them taking Asmara and other centres which seem ripe to fall to a resolute guerrilla force which possesses the countryside, but they pin down most of the Ethiopian army.

Attacks by the Somalis in Ogaden and by Ali Mireh's forces near Djibouti have shown how weak that army is elsewhere. When Djibouti becomes independent of France later this year, it will be difficult for Addis Ababa to assert its demand that it shall stay independent (and open to Ethiopian transit traffic) as opposed to the increasingly likely early decision to merge itself with the Republic of Somalia. Even if Addis Ababa abandons its traditional stand on Djibouti, there is now no assurance that this would deflect the Somalis from taking the opportunity to press their claims on Ogaden. Their Russian-trained army is ready. This prospect may weigh with President Nimiery in his relations with the dissidents in Northern Ethiopia.

Thus beset, the Dergue's future looks bleak. It was foolish to quarrel with the Sudan, and to miss the chance of peace with the Eritreans. But the rebellion which obsesses it is abandoned their own strongest chieftains, many giving over as utterly outworn any belief in a living God, a recognizable historical Jesus, life after death, and an objective ethic. For these we have substitutes which the humanist can proclaim just as well and with less confusion.

One does not need to be out of touch with the times or dogmatic to deplore this. Clear-sighted humanists deplore it just as much. When in addition the churches resort to very questionable means to preserve their own privileges and

Freedom and the use of force

From the Dean of Rochester

Sir, Lord Chalfont's article (January 4), coming on the day that Mr. Vladimir Bukovsky arrived in Britain and spoke so movingly about the great British tradition of freedom, prompts me to say how grateful I am to Lord Chalfont for the way in which he has so clearly reminded us of the real dangers that face our country, both from within and without.

One of the things that Christianity and Communism have in common is a recognition of the weakness of human nature. In practice it seems that Communism seeks to exploit that weakness, whereas Christianity tries to redeem and deliver.

Many agnostic humanists shut their eyes to the weakness of human nature and refuse to face the real situation, and regrettably much of this thinking seems to have seeped through into Socialism as it is expressed today. While on the way to redemption—which is a long process—order must be maintained if freedom is not to disappear and the world be left at the mercy of the bullies. If law and order are to be maintained coercion and restraint will be necessary.

For me, therefore, the question is when does the force needed to coerce or restrain become worse than that which we are seeking to control? Bukovsky's arrival here strengthens my conviction that the loss of freedom, imprisonment in psychiatric units and all that that stands for, is far worse than the use of armed force.

As a Christian, I certainly do not believe that the Kingdom of God can be ushered in by force, but I believe that while we are proclaiming the good news it is more right to protect freedom than to give it away. It seems to me selfish to aim at higher material standards of living for ourselves, rather than to protect freedom which will serve the world, as indeed it has served Bukovsky.

We must be prepared to spend more on defence, Lord Chalfont, some time ago, quite rightly pointed out that there is too much money in defending a demoralized and bankrupt society, but it is also little use having the best Health Service in the world if you cannot secure and defend it.

Yours sincerely,
STANLEY BETTS, Bishop,
Rochester,
Kent.
January 5.

Farm workers' wages

From Mr. G. A. Lewis

Sir, As leader of the employers' side of the Agricultural Wages Board, I am concerned at the implications of Christopher Thomas's article in your issue of January 4, and his allegation that farm workers have lost out in the pay battle. This is not so.

The Agricultural Wages Board determines only minimum rates. It is open to all farm employers to pay rates over and above these statutory minima and 95 per cent do so. This is fully understood by those in the farming industry. The determinations of the Wages Board and the actions of employers have in fact raised the real wages of agricultural workers from 69 per cent in 1971 to over 78 per cent in 1976.

The average earnings, including the effects of the latest award, will be in excess of £53 a week, a figure which although still below average industrial earnings hardly justifies the description "appalling pay". All the statutory minimum adult rates were below £50 a week and have been increased by the full £2.50 allowed by the Government's present incomes policy.

In addition, the employers' side, through the National Farmers' Union, has ensured that all farm employers are fully aware that the present incomes policy enables further increases to be given to all workers earning above £50 a week. Full details are in the process of being publicised through the NFU journals together with tables to enable employers to calculate with ease the supplements up to the maximum (£4 per week) permitted under the pay policy.

Farmers, like all other employers, are by now used to implementing various forms of Government income policy in recent years which permit additional increases over and above those that are relevant to the statutory minimum rate. There is no reason to suppose that they will not do so in the future. Indeed, I hope and I am confident that they will do so.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE A. LEWIS,
Leader of the Employers' Side on
Agricultural Wages Board,
Agriculture House,
Knightsbridge, SW1.
January 4.

Coinage small print

From Mr. C. S. Comport

Sir, The advertisement by the National Westminster Bank in your Jubilee Britain Special Report of January 5 depicting Elizabeth II coinage proudly proclaims: "We Noticed" and correctly highlights the fact that ten pence pieces were not issued for 1977. They have not not only been issued but have been issued in such quantities that they will not be so scarce as the Queen's first coinage and the obverse (face) of the coins bore the legend ELIZABETH II DEI GRATIA BRIT: OMN: REGINA. However, some Commonwealth countries apparently objected to the phrase BRIT: OMN: REGINA, which translates as "Queen of the British Empire" and from 1954 onwards BRIT: OMN: was omitted. 1953 was thus the only year of this coin type.

Yours, etc.
C. S. COMPORT,
Chairman, Essex Numismatic Society,
Culford,
Park Avenue,
Hutton,
Essex.
January 6.

Vote on cut in defence expenditure

From Mr. John P. Mackintosh, MP,
for Berwick and East Lothian
(Labour)

Sir, There has been some discussion as to whether British institutions make our current problems easier or harder to solve. One clear-cut case of the inadequacy of our institutions arises on Wednesday, January 12, when the House of Commons will be asked to give or withhold its approval of the further £300m cut in defence announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in December.

British MPs know that Field-Marshal Carver (just retired) said of the previous cuts that they reduced British armed forces to below the safety level. They also know that the Chiefs of Staff took a step unprecedented since the war of exercising a right of direct access to the Prime Minister to put their objections to these further cuts.

But the House of Commons is to be asked to vote on this vital question next Wednesday without any knowledge of what they said. In every other major legislature in the Western world, there is a defence committee which would have summoned the Chiefs of Staff, heard their objections and cross-examined them, so that the MPs would know what were the issues involved.

The hereditary peerage

From the Editorial Director,
Burke's Peerage

Sir, One of the results of the "democratization" of the monarchy is that people have tended to forget that it is, however anachronistic, a fact may be to establish a hereditary peerage. Therefore if one is against the hereditary principle, one is against the monarchy.

Although it is fashionable to pretend otherwise, the monarchy is at the head of the aristocracy. The two are inseparable. Theoretically the Sovereign can still refuse her assent to an Act of Parliament. No Sovereign since Anne has done so, and clearly no Sovereign in the future would dream of doing so.

Sometimes, of course, a proposed change is so radical that it needs legislation to command acceptance. Thus, in the Wootton Bassett Peerage case referred to in Mr. Fletcher-Cooke's letter (January 4) a sensible attempt to strengthen the judicial membership of the Lords by the appointment of a distinguished judge as a life peer was vetoed by the hereditary peers as a threat to their powers and was vigorously opposed accordingly. The battles over the powers of the Lords in 1910-11 fell into a similar category.

The failure to recommend the creation of further hereditary peers seems to me to be entirely in line with the feeling of the times and to fall into the first category of change rather than the second. It is a convenient way of removing a now anachronistic element in an unwritten constitution without fuss and in a manner likely to command the acceptance of the majority.

Yours faithfully,
R. A. COOKE,
11 New Square,
Lincoln's Inn, WC2.

The proposed assemblies

From Mrs. Eileen Rose

Sir, In the original White Paper on devolution the Government put forward the suggestion that the assembly should have the power to raise revenue by imposing a 10 per cent surcharge on local rates. Somebody must then have told them that the rates burden here is already at a punitive level and going up. So that idea was hastily dropped. And we now have the farcical situation that the great assembly will have less real financial power than the present regional authorities. It will have to depend on block grants voted by Parliament unless somebody can think up something better.

In any situation power without responsibility is a recipe for disaster. The members of this assembly will be able to advocate absolutely anything since they will not have to find the money. And, when their plays are thwarted because Westminster will not foot the bill, Scotland's will will be attributed to the members of the "London-based Government". The Nationalists will be the residual beneficiaries of this ill-conceived plan.

Before any irrevocable step is taken we might usefully ponder the words of Herbert Spencer. He condemned the politician "into whose mind there enters no thought of such things as political momentum, still less of a political momentum which, instead of diminishing or remaining constant, increases. The theory on which he daily proceeds is that the change caused by his measure will stop where he intends it to stop. He contemplates intensely the things he set on foot, but thinks little of the remoter issues of the movement his act sets up, and still less its collateral issues."

Roy Jenkins draws comparisons between the resurgence of nationalism in Scotland today and the situation in the nineteenth century in Ireland. This is nonsense and misleading. There is here no parallel to the agrarian and religious grievances of the Irish peasantry a century ago.

Up to the time of the discovery of North Sea oil the Scottish Nationalists were a middle class minority who advocated the kind of nationalism that "wasn't worth itself, is not puffed up and doth not behave itself unseemingly". Mr. William McKelvey (SNP vice-chairman) said recently: "It may be that some day we shall be able to come to the fact that the battle for nationalism was not primarily a battle for material things but for the survival of our culture. I fear somewhat for a Scotland conceived in oil and a Scotland conceived in steel."

So I I was in Mr. Alex Buchanan's constituency just before the election of October 1974. Everywhere the posters were putting to us the simple and seductive choice—Rich Scott, Poor Britain—the flagrant appeal to greed and selfishness. People who resort to that kind of thing are poor Scots, poor Britons and pretty contemptible members of the human race. And those who pander to them are worse.

Yours faithfully,
EILEEN ROSE,
1 Redlands Road,
Glasgow.

Educational disadvantage

From Mr. Max Morris

Sir, Your report (December 29) that the Tory-controlled Buckinghamshire local authority has been recommended, as an economy measure, to stop providing school meals, should cause alarm and despondency among Conservatives seriously concerned with the problems of educational disadvantage.

When, at their invitation, I addressed a recent seminar of the Conservative Graduates Association, which was preparing guidelines on this theme for Mrs Thatcher, I warned them that poverty remains the major cause of disadvantage. I pointed out that if a child's environment and social conditions were bad this could counteract, even nullify, all the efforts made to provide good schools.

In this context cuts in the Health Service, with their possible impact on family well-being, must affect the welfare of children, both directly and indirectly. And just as important are school meals which, as is well known, are often the only balanced meals many children have in the day.

I warned the seminar that even to charge the full economic cost (which must immediately reduce the number of children having meals), let alone abolish the service, would be to engage in an orgy of destruction, socially, that would have consequences whose suggestions these measures would rue.

To say, as the Chairman of the Buckinghamshire Education Committee does, that it is a question of "meals or teachers" reveals an ap-

Ensuring future energy supplies

From Professor Sir Martin Ryle,
FRS

Sir, It is a pity that Professor Rogers (December 20) did not read my article (December 14) more carefully before dismissing it so scornfully. Firstly, my reference to "a few more years" was related explicitly to the exhaustion of mineral resources. If Professor Rogers hopes that the world can support 7 billion inhabitants at the standard of living of the developed countries then more than cheap energy is needed; only by population control, better planned agricultural policies, a reduction of our standard of living and the most careful husbanding and more equitable distribution of all resources can we hope to maintain a stable situation. It is in this context that the forecasts of energy needs must be examined.

Secondly, I pointed out that, unlike the United Kingdom, most industrial countries and the EEC seemed to be aware of the importance of investigating alternative energy resources; I certainly made no reference to which countries were or were not developing nuclear power. We, in the United Kingdom, allocate more than 10 per cent of our energy research and development budget to non-nuclear programmes; unless this is increased it is unlikely that we will get very far either in developing these alternatives or in assessing their overall cost in relation to that of a nuclear future.

But is Professor Rogers' unfortunate that Professor Rogers should express such strong views on the feasibility of alternative resources without apparently making any attempt to discover what has been achieved. He claims that all modern experimental windmills any size have blown down. As far as I am aware only two large windmills have failed—and these did not "blow down". The first, built in the United States in the early 1940s, operated for several years before a fatigue failure in a rotor blade; the second, built in the Orkneys in 1955 was taken out of service due to vibration problems.

There have, on the other hand, been a large number of successful experimental installations, many of which have supplied power over periods of several years to their respective grid systems. Installations in Russia (100 kw), Germany (100 kw), Denmark (several, up to 200 kw) and France (several, including 800 kw and 1,000 kw) have demonstrated convincingly that the engineering problems of generating electricity from the wind can be solved.

These experiments (mostly 1955-65), the unit cost of electricity produced was about twice that of oil and coal-fired stations.

We have now moved into a different era, when fossil fuels are no longer cheap; the construction of a 2 Mw windmill in Denmark (now nearing completion) and plans for similar installations in the United States indicate that other countries are seriously examining the possibilities of renewable energy resources.

As Dr. Tolba (*The Times*, December 16), has pointed out the "relatively straightforward engineering involved in most of these systems makes them particularly attractive for producing power in developing countries, without the necessity for providing either nuclear physicists or armed guards for the indefinite future."

In reply to a letter from Dr. Strub (December 31), I am sorry if his views were not correctly represented in my article. I was not able to be present at the meeting of the Institution of Electrical Engineers and had to rely on a newspaper report.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN RYLE,
Department of Physics,
University of Cambridge,
Madingley Road,
Cambridge.

Mechanics Institutes

From the Master of Birkbeck College

Sir, Mr. E. R. Chamberlin (December 5) inquires of surviving Mechanics Institutes. The London Mechanics' Institution was inaugurated under the presidency of Dr. George Birkbeck, on December 2, 1823. As Birkbeck College in the University of London is now in its 154th session, its curriculum has changed, but it is as dedicated now as in 1823 to "the instruction of its members during the hours of evening in the Principles of the Arts and Sciences and in the various branches of Science and useful knowledge". Of its 2,600 students, 1,200 are working for first degrees and 1,400 for higher degrees; 87 per cent are part-time.

Yours faithfully,
R. C. TRESS,
Birkbeck College,
University of London,
Malet Street, WC1.
Other correspondents have written to report the continuing existence of Mechanics Institutes in Nottingham and Derby.

To be or not to be

From Mr. Roy Plomley

Sir, Mr. Bernard Levin's article on traces of missing characters. Shakespeare's plays is incomplete. In *Hamlet*, there was undoubtedly a Second Ghost, because Marcellus reports, in Act I, Scene 1, after seeing the dead King on the platform before the castle, "With Marshal Seik hath he gone by our watch" (although the second word is invariably printed with the aberrant spelling "marial") and the proper name without its capital letter. There is also Hamlet's Irish friend who is addressed by him in Act III, Scene 3 with the words, "Now might I do it, Pat, now he is praying."

Both these parts, it may be assumed, were to be played by backers who subsequently backed out.

Yours faithfully,
ROY PLOMLEY,
91 Deodar Road,
Purley, SW15.

The Archbishop's call

From Professor H. D. Lewis

Sir, Mr. Longley notes in *The Times* today (January 4), that the splendid moral appeal of the Archbishop of Canterbury has fallen on stony ground.

Is this very surprising? Some time ago one heard much of a "non-conformist conscience," by no means confined to nonconformists. That seems to be a spent force now, and are not the churches themselves mainly to blame? They have

abandoned their own strongest chieftains, many giving over as utterly outworn any belief in a living God, a recognizable historical Jesus, life after death, and an objective ethic. For these we have substitutes which the humanist can proclaim just as well and with less confusion.

One does not need to be out of touch with the times or dogmatic to deplore this. Clear-sighted humanists deplore it just as much. When in addition the churches resort to very questionable means to preserve their own privileges and

Richard

PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

Unit trusts

Britannia shakes off the past

In the dying embers of the old year the Britannia Group rose like a phoenix from the ashes of the former Slater, Walker unit trust group.

After the Slater affair it was inevitable that the unit trust group, given a totally clean bill of health by the report into Slater, Walker Securities, would wish to assume a new identity.

The new Britannia group has emerged relatively unscathed from what, were, indeed, the traumatic events of 1976. The word, of course, is "relatively". For there have been repurchases of around £18m from worried unitholders—of which at least £6m the managers reckon can be directly attributed to the departure of Jim Slater. Elsewhere, on the private portfolio side of the group, its pension fund management activities suddenly ceased to grow.

All this coincided with difficulties of another kind. At the end of 1974 and in early 1975 the Slater unit trust group acquired the management of the Jessel and National unit trusts—making a grand group total of 44 funds. Not merely were the portfolios out of line with Slater thinking, but clearly many of the funds duplicated each other.

After some delay, for technical reasons, managing director Brian Banks and deputy chairman Jim Nichols were able to put together a merger programme—spanning most of 1976 and a little of this year—which has resulted in 44 unit trusts being reduced to a more manageable 23, all with restructured portfolios where appropriate.

So it really is a much revamped, much chastened group which has emerged as Britannia. And I am happy to report that it has weathered its past and is in fine fettle. "The morale is fantastically high," points out Nichols. "There is no excuse

for poor performance, this year," adds Banks.

The only outstanding problem now facing the group is its negative outlook. The level of repurchases has dropped sharply in recent months and is now estimated to be below the industry average.

So will the public, and perhaps more important still, the professional advisers, give the new Britannia group the support it needs? The answer, I think, should be "Yes". In the first place, the market conditions are improving. In a resurgent equity market, unit sales are likely to follow suit. Secondly, Britannia will be indulging in a heavy promotional campaign which will include not merely advertising but seminars and meetings with professional advisers such as insurance brokers.

Thirdly, the team at Britannia is well-cried and tested. There was no mass exodus during the troubles last year, and in fact the key people, Eric Farrell, deputy managing director and in charge of dealing, Mr Banks and Mr Nichols have been there since 1964, 1968 and 1969 respectively.

So it is a very stable outfit and well structured internally in respect of its investment research, management and completely independent dealing system.

And what about the range of funds? Well, of 23 of them, it is, as one might expect, a very comprehensive list which veers towards the specialist categories. No less than 12 of the total come under this heading.

Although every investor should be able to find something to appeal, specialist funds can also prove a mixed blessing. Their risk/reward ratios are higher than for a conventional fund and it is very likely that Britannia will be nursing a bad

performer—like its Mineral and Gold funds last year which followed the gold share index downwards—as well as some good ones.

In overall terms, the group looks capable of providing a reliable investment record. Its investment management is done in-house and the team is experienced at fund management and unlike other outposts of the erstwhile Slater empire operated on the conventional lines of classic investment management rather than falling over backwards to accommodate new trends and styles.

Looking back at Britannia's record last year, which was clearly not the most auspicious of times for the group, it didn't do too badly at all. Its General and Growth funds were in the top 20 Medium funds and over three years, the Growth fund (based on the old Invan fund figures) is up by 24 per cent, definitely one of the higher rankings of the period.

Again in the Growth category, the Capital Accumulator fund (the old SW Unit Trust) is showing a 25 per cent appreciation over the last three years and the fifteenth in the 1976 placings. The Income and Specialist tables also showed Britannia funds around this level, although there were a clutch of Britannia specialist funds, the banking and property funds, as well as the gold share funds, which hogged the bottom of the table.

All the funds are now fully invested and I asked both Mr Banks and Mr Nichols which of the 23 funds they would put their best friends into. There was no outright choice but both opted for the Income & Growth and North American funds. Banks then diverged into the Property and Financial Securities funds to complete his list while Nichols preferred the

The Britannia funds—or how 44 unit trusts became 23

S W Unit Trust	now	Capital Accumulator (£9.9m)
Nat Commercial Consolidated	now	Commercial & Industrial (£11.7m)
Nat Consolidated	now	Commodity Shares (£11.2m)
Nat Investors General	now	Domestic (£11.7m)
Nat Investors 2nd General	now	Extra Income (£7.5m)
Nat Unit "D"	now	Far East (£0.6m)
Nat Hundred Securities	now	Financial Securities (from 12.77) (£12.0m)
Jessel Commodities & General	now	Growth (£19.4m)
Nat Domestic	now	Income & Growth (£8.9m)
Nat Shamrock	now	International Growth (£7.5m)
Nat Scottish	now	Unit Fund of Investment Trust Shares (£2.8m)
Jessel Extra Income	now	Universal Energy (from 14.77) (£4.4m)
Jessel High Income	now	
Jessel Australian & General	now	
Nat Banking, Insurance & Financial	now	
Jessel City of London	now	
S.W. Invan	now	
Jessel Capital Growth	now	
Nat Century	now	
Nat Provident Investors	now	
Nat Security First	now	
Jessel Income	now	
S.W. High Income	now	
Jessel Global	now	
Jessel International Consumer	now	
Jessel Investment Trust Fund	now	
Nat Fund of Investment Trusts	now	
Nat Gas Industry & Power	now	
Jessel General	now	

UNCHANGED FUNDS	New Issue (£1.8m)
Assets (£4.8m)	North American (£0.8m)
Exempt (£0.3m)	Professional (£0.4m)
Gold & General (£2.1m)	Property (£3.4m)
Minerals (£1.7m)	Shield (£15.9m)
National High Income (£18.2m)	Status Change (£1.2m)

Unit Fund of Investment Trust Shares. And as a long shot, maybe Mr Banks and Mr Nichols ready for a new challenge might have a go at taking over and re-structuring some investment trusts.

Margaret Stone

The Trustee of Chieftain High Income Unit Trust is Midland Bank Trust Company

The main duties of the Trustee are to hold the title to the Trust's investments, and to check that all purchases made by the Trust are in accordance with the Trust deed; to ensure that the income is distributed to the unitholders properly; and to approve advertising and literature.

TAX ADVANTAGES

You can sell your units on any normal working day at the prevailing bid price.

If you are a standard rate taxpayer, you will generally incur no tax liability when you come to sell.

If you are paying a higher rate of tax at the time of sale, you will be liable to Capital Gains Tax. But, even for the top-rate taxpayer, there is a maximum liability of only 12½% (as against the normal rate of 30%).

CLOSING DATE

Until 14th January 1977, units will be available at a fixed price of 28.4p each.

Fill in the coupon, or talk to your financial adviser without delay.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Your application will not be acknowledged, but you will receive a certificate by 25th February.

The offer will close if the price of units should have risen by 2½%. After 14th January units will be available at the daily quoted offer price and yield published in most newspapers.

Units can be sold back at the bid price on any working day. You will receive a cheque within seven days of receipt of your renounced certificate.

Chieftain High Income Units were first offered on 6th September 1976 at 25p each.

There is an initial management charge of 5% included in the price of units, and out of this the Managers will pay commission of 1½% to recognised professional advisers. There is also an annual charge of 2.8% (plus VAT) which has been allowed for in the quoted yield.

Income is paid net of income tax, but this can be reclaimed by non-taxpayers.

Distributions and a report on the fund are made half-yearly on 31st May and 30th November.

This offer is not applicable to Eire.

The Managers of the Trust are Chieftain Trust Managers Ltd., 30-31 Queen Street, London EC4R 1BR. Telephone: 01-248 2932.

The Directors of Chieftain Trust Managers Ltd. are P. L. Potts B.A. (Chairman); R. J. D. Eats M.A., M.B.A.; J. D. Gillett B.Sc.; I. H. A. Hazeel F.C.I.S.; A. L. F. Tod.



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(Minimum initial holding, £250)

I enclose a remittance, payable to Chieftain Trust Managers Limited.

Tick box:

☐ If you want maximum growth by automatic re-investment of net income.

☐ If you want to know how to buy Chieftain High Income Units on a regular monthly basis.

☐ If you would like details of our Share Exchange Plan.

SIGNATURE AND ADDRESS

NAME AND ADDRESS

ADDRESS

SIGNATURE

(If there are joint applicants all must sign and attach names and addresses separately) (Reg'd office as above, Reg'd No. 7/10118/1)

Round-up

Target's challenge • Worldinvest

Over the years there has been a steady stream of unit trust group mergers and takeovers but very rarely the need for an outright rescue operation. But it does appear likely that had not the Target group assumed the management of the Coyne Growth Fund, as from January 1, that the fund would have been terminated and the proceeds of the liquidated portfolio, valued at £95,000 on an on-going basis, returned to the fund's 180 unitholders.

Although Coyne is a fairly insignificant fund, formed at the end of 1969 as a managed fund vehicle for the private clients of an investment counsellor, with an unimpressive performance record it would still have reflected badly upon the unit trust industry as a whole had it been terminated long before the expiry of its trust deed.

Target, whose chairman Tim Simon is the chairman of the Unit Trust Association, ultimately plans to merge the Coyne fund with one of its own, probably one with an international spread.

Bank of America International has entered the international offshore fund industry this week with the launch of its Worldinvest Income Fund. Originally designed for the bank's private clients, it was decided to launch the fund publicly instead.

The portfolio is expected to be international in spread too. The managers are considering Eurobonds, short-dated gilt-edged securities, short-dated German Treasury bills and international Canadian issues. There may even be some United Kingdom Treasury bills.

The shares are in bearer form and the minimum investment is \$5,000. The initial charge of 1 per cent is low for offshore funds. It is not available to United Kingdom residents.

Crossword solution

DEFERRED ASDA
EAT I ANNEU
BUCKLE SCANNED
T T I I K S I
LOAN INTEREST
B R G G D O
ASSUME LOAFER
R A P U S
CONTRIBUTORY
LOKAITTE
ASPIREY OWING
Y A T N V G
SOYA TRUSTEES

The Investor's week Christmas crossword was not easy and no one had a fully correct solution. However, Mr J. Robertson, of 29 Warwick Road, Ealing, with only one mistake, is to receive the £5 book token prize.

Fixed interest investment

Floating rate issue fails to materialize

The Government Broker has been unloading his traditional fixed interest stock at such a rate that the year's deficit now appears to have been funded three months before its end. And what do we now hear? Why, last summer's rumours of a floating rate issue, all over again.

Then the suggestion was that, if investors could not be persuaded to part with their money in exchange for investments with a fixed interest rate—for fear that interest rates were set to rise and they would lose out on the deal—then they might be persuaded to part with it for investments with a floating interest rate, which would minimize the extent to which they would lose out in such an eventuality.

It isn't difficult to see where some of the impetus to the latest set of rumours at the end of last week came from. For GEC, the electrical giant whose brand, names include Hotpoint, English Electric, Osram and Marconi, conferred instant respectability on the idea on Thursday by announcing that it proposed to issue floating rate notes to its shareholders as a means of enabling them to benefit from its high cash flow and high cash balances.

The new notes, which are to be issued at par, will carry a rate of interest 1 per cent above the six-month London inter-bank rate (LIBOR)—that is, the rate at which the banks lend money between themselves. This rate is at present 13½ per cent, so that GEC's new notes are likely initially to be offering a return of 14½ per cent.

But initially is the key word: for the rate will be changed every six months in accordance with the London inter-bank rate then prevailing. So if interest rates go down in the six months from the date of issue, the notes' owners will find themselves receiving less in the way of income in the second six months than they were in the first.

And what happens to their capital value, when dealings start on the stock exchange in the middle of March? Well, because the rate of interest which they offer is to be adjusted to bring it back into line with the market every six months, at which point the notes themselves will again be standing at their par value, there isn't under normal circumstances

likely to be any sizable fluctuation in the price.

If, however, there are rapid and sharp changes in interest rates, of the kind saw back in the autumn, they will of course be reflected in the value of the notes.

Thus if interest rates are on what seems likely to be sustained upwards course investment whose rate of return is due to rise at a specific time is obviously going to be attractive to one whose interest is static; and prices can be expected to rise to reflect fact.

Conversely if, as at present interest rates seem likely to (and minimum lending dropped by another quarter to 14 per cent on Friday an investment which gives a fixed high return is obviously a better bet than one on the return will fall: and prices can be expected to decline.

Within that six month period, the price fluctuates are likely to be much less than on any fixed interest investment—except, perhaps, on a similar coupon (the nominal rate of interest).

That might suggest that floating rate investment is the perfect vehicle for the investor who doesn't rock deal much but who wants opportunity to sell in an emergency without too much loss. Its suitability, however, depends upon the income of a small investor in question.

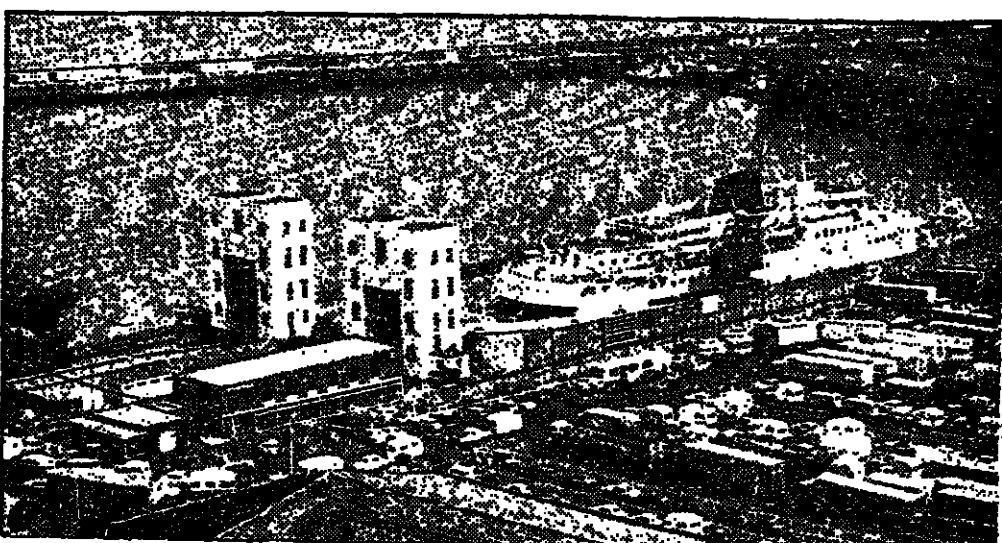
It is perfectly true that investing in a security offers a floating rate of return will be better protected against inflation while interest rates are on the way up, than interest rate movement tend to precede movement in the rate of inflation.

But they also tend to underestimate them, and the result of an investment in floating rate notes could be that investor finds himself with income which rises ahead of the rate of inflation, but relatively small amount, tends to fall (in anticipation of inflation easing) while they themselves are still rising.

That is not a desirable position for anyone who has watch the pennies. Far better to go, instead, for one of the high yielding investments in (yearling bonds) which were still yielding 13½ per cent last week, with the option switch into a floating rate issue if rates show signs of rising again later on.

Adrienne Gleeson

Motor insurance



Car ferry terminal at Dover: travellers armed with a green card have the best proof insurance cover.

Taking your car abroad?

If, despite the cost, you are planning to take your car to the Continent next year, it is easy to think that, from the insurance point of view, nothing is needed except a package "top up" policy from, say, one of the motoring organizations or direct from a company which specializes in this field.

After all, on the strength of your United Kingdom motor policy, you can take the car to many countries on the Continent without breaking any laws or being required to buy insurance at the border before being allowed to enter a country.

Unfortunately, it all sounds better than it is in reality. British motor insurers are not really giving anything away by incorporating cover for use in many Continental countries—as they are required to do by law. This is because policies only cover the bare minimum required by law in the various countries on the Continent—and the cost (in premium terms) of that cover, almost certainly, is appreciably less than the full cover which would be enjoyed under the policy in this country if the car was not taken to the Continent.

Hardly anybody in this country has the bare minimum of cover required by the Road Traffic Act—unless, perhaps, their past experience has been so poor that no insurer is prepared to give cover on wider

terms. At the very least, it is usual to have full third party cover. It is equally unwise to take the car to the Continent with no more insurance than the legal minimum—which, incidentally, varies between one country and another.

Much the best plan is to arrange with the insurers for the policy to be extended on full terms for the period during which the car will be on the Continent—for which an additional premium will have to be paid.

Although not strictly necessary for visiting many of the countries on the Continent, a green card will be issued—partly because it is the best proof of insurance cover in the event of an accident, and partly because a green card is acceptable in more countries than those where a United Kingdom policy automatically gives the cover required by law.

Normally, when you extend a motor policy automatically it gives cover for a sea transit scheduled to take not more than 65 hours. If you are planning a mini-cruise of some kind, with the benefit of the car at the other end, and which will take longer than that, you should advise your insurers when applying for the policy to be extended.

Your insurers may issue you with a European Accident Statement when you tell them you will be taking the car to

the Continent. The idea (which is widely accepted on the Continent) is that, if you are collision with another motor on the Continent, both you and the other motorists can refer to the form—at the time of an accident—those facts on which you agree. This, by the way, does not count as an admission of liability—which, of course, you are never supposed to make.

The British translation of the form follows the same format and order of questions as the Continental version, and there should not be any great problem in completing the form—even if you and the motorist with whom you collide have difficulty in conversing.

Completing the form is compulsory, but insurers' "courage" policy holders to complete it and to let them in it at the same time as a completed claim form or a report form.

At some stage, these forms may be adopted more widely in this country. The General Accident has experimented with them to replace selected areas, but the it is unlikely to catch on in most of the major insurance introductions them—after some grounds of cost.

John Drummer

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began Jan 4. Dealings End, Jan 14. § Contango Day, Jan 17. Settlement Day, Jan 25.

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

هَكَذَا مِنَ الْأَصْلِ

